AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Water Recycling Policy

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1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter referred to as “AzTU”) recognises responsible water management as a strategic priority for environmental sustainability, operational resilience, and efficient use of natural resources. As a public technical university, AzTU acknowledges its responsibility to reduce dependence on potable water resources and to promote environmentally responsible practices across its campuses and operations.

This Water Recycling Policy (hereinafter referred to as “the Policy”) establishes the institutional principles, expectations, and responsibilities governing the reduction of potable water consumption and the reuse of treated water within University operations.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- reduce potable water consumption through systematic water recycling and efficiency measures;
- integrate water reuse considerations into infrastructure planning, procurement, and facility management;
- ensure safe, compliant, and effective operation of water recycling systems;
- support institutional sustainability objectives and national environmental priorities; and
- contribute to long-term environmental protection and resource efficiency.

Legislative and Strategic Context

This Policy is developed in alignment with:

- environmental and water management legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- national sustainability and resource-efficiency priorities;
- AzTU’s Strategic Development Plan and Sustainability Policy; and
- relevant international standards and best practices in water management and sustainable campus operations.

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following key terms are used in this Policy to ensure consistent understanding and application:

- **Water Recycling** – The collection, treatment, and reuse of wastewater or greywater for non-potable purposes within University operations.
- **Greywater** – Wastewater generated from sinks, showers, washbasins, and similar sources, excluding sewage.
- **Potable Water** – Water suitable for human consumption and domestic use.
- **Non-Potable Use** – Applications such as irrigation, sanitation, cleaning, cooling, or technical processes that do not require drinking-water quality.
- **Water Efficiency** – Measures that reduce water consumption while maintaining required service and safety standards.
- **Baseline** – A defined reference year and quantified value against which water consumption and recycling performance are measured.

- **Infrastructure Projects** – Construction, renovation, or maintenance activities affecting water supply, wastewater, or drainage systems.

3. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to:

- all campuses, buildings, and facilities owned, leased, or operated by AzTU;
- all academic, administrative, and technical units involved in infrastructure planning, facility management, and procurement;
- contractors, consultants, service providers, and suppliers whose activities affect water use or recycling systems; and
- students, staff, and visitors where their actions influence water consumption or recycling initiatives.

The Policy applies to all water-related activities conducted by AzTU, including infrastructure development, daily operations, and sustainability initiatives, unless otherwise regulated by specific legal or contractual requirements.

4. GOVERNANCE

The **University Council** approves this Policy and provides overall oversight to ensure alignment with institutional strategy and sustainability objectives.

The **Rectorate** provides strategic leadership, ensures adequate resources for implementation, and supports continuous improvement in water management practices.

The **Facilities Management Department** is responsible for:

- leading implementation of this Policy;
- managing and maintaining water recycling infrastructure;
- ensuring operational safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance; and
- coordinating infrastructure upgrades and efficiency improvements.

The **Sustainability Office** supports:

- data collection and performance analysis;
- monitoring progress against targets;
- integration of water performance indicators into sustainability reporting.

The **Procurement Unit** ensures that procurement processes support water-efficient technologies and recycling-compatible solutions.

5. WATER RECYCLING PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

Azerbaijan Technical University applies institution-wide standards to ensure that water recycling activities are planned, implemented, and managed in a safe, efficient, and sustainable manner. Water recycling systems must comply with applicable legal, technical, health, and environmental requirements and be designed to protect public health, infrastructure integrity, and environmental quality.

5.1. Strategic Approach to Water Recycling

AzTU adopts a preventive and efficiency-oriented approach to water management, prioritising reduction of potable water use, reuse of treated water, and long-term sustainability. Water recycling initiatives are evaluated based on lifecycle cost, environmental impact, technical feasibility, and regulatory compliance.

5.2. Infrastructure Planning and Integration

Water recycling considerations are integrated into infrastructure planning, construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects. Opportunities for reuse are assessed at design and approval stages to ensure cost-effective and safe implementation.

5.3. Operational Management and Safety

Recycling systems are operated and maintained to ensure reliability, hygiene, and compliance with applicable standards. Clear operational procedures and maintenance schedules are established to minimise risks and ensure system performance.

5.4. Awareness, Training, and Engagement

AzTU promotes awareness of water conservation and recycling through communication, signage, and engagement initiatives. Relevant staff receive training to support effective operation, monitoring, and compliance with this Policy.

5.5. Targets, Baselines, and Performance Objectives

The University establishes measurable and time-bound targets to guide implementation and assess performance.

Defined parameters include:

Baseline year:	2025
Baseline value:	100,000 m^3 per year (total potable water consumption)
Target:	30% reduction in potable water consumption
Target timeline:	By 2030
Measurement method:	Metered annual water consumption data
Responsible units:	Facilities Management Department and Sustainability Office

Targets are reviewed periodically and updated to reflect infrastructure developments and performance outcomes.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy is implemented through approved infrastructure planning processes, operational procedures, procurement requirements, and sustainability initiatives.

Faculties and administrative units cooperate with central services to support effective implementation, while technical and operational responsibilities remain with designated owner units.

Supporting internal regulations and technical guidelines operationalise this Policy without altering its core principles.

7. MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Water recycling performance is monitored through structured data collection and periodic review.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) include:

- potable water consumption compared to baseline values;
- volume and percentage of recycled water used;
- progress toward approved reduction targets;
- operational performance of recycling infrastructure; and
- compliance with safety and regulatory requirements.

Annual internal performance reports are submitted to relevant governance bodies and inform sustainability planning and investment decisions.

8. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed every two years or earlier if required by regulatory changes, infrastructure developments, or monitoring outcomes.

The review process considers achievement against targets, effectiveness of governance arrangements, and lessons learned from implementation. Approved revisions are endorsed by the University Council and communicated across the University.

AZTU

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

