

CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

2022-2030



SUMQAYIT DÖVLƏT
UNİVERSİTETİ

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Section 1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

This document reflects the climate action policy of Sumgayit State University. Current environmental problems, strategies that put forward to solve this issue, environmental damage caused by global climate change, results of environmental problems in recent years and priority work for solving the problem are reflected in the document. By adopting the policy of climate action, SSU contributes to the analysis of the causes of climate change, the ways to overcome the existing problem, to assess environmental education.

1.2. Legal basis

National and international laws, protocols and conventions, as well as laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, decrees and orders of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan form the legal basis of the climate activity and sustainability policy of SSU. These include UNEP, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Law on Environmental Protection, Law on Use of Renewable Energy Sources, Land Code, Water Code and others. At the same time, the climate activity and sustainability policy of the university is based on the Charter of SSU and the decisions of the Scientific Council of SSU.

1.3. Current situation

- Local and international cooperation of SSU: SSU actively builds relationships with local (BSU, AACU, ASPU, ASOIU, TAI, MI, RPI, FMI, IPKP, FI) , regional and international research institutions, universities and organizations (KSU, USPTU, Samsun University 19 May) through activities arising from SDG17.

These relations and cooperation provide opportunities for investigating jointly, exchanging knowledge and experience, discussing the obtained results or existing problems on a global scale. Therefore, our priority in our communication with stakeholders through our reliable and accurate communication channels is to inform about our efforts to them and by playing a role in improving the quality of SSU management, environmental and social groups in the important issues we identify, contribute to the development of society and the protection of the environment. We also aim to listen to stakeholders at all times to ensure that their views are considered in a timely and comprehensive manner.

- Sustainable Procurement and Cooperation: At SSU, we cooperate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local and international organizations, not only in the educational process, but also to protect our reputation and expand our activities to be more sustainable.

- **Research and innovation in sustainability:** SSU regularly engages in innovative research to ensure sustainable development and efficient use of the environment. In particular in the department of Ecology of the faculty of Chemistry and biology, on the management of solid domestic waste, ways of ecologically obtaining energy, ensuring the efficient use of water resources, studying the ecological problems of territories freed from occupation, restoring soil fertility, etc. SSU organizes training, seminars and webinars to exchange knowledge and skills. Conferences, seminars, round tables covering the topics create ample opportunities for the active participation of faculty members and students. In addition to theoretical foundations, these events provide students with practical knowledge and skills.
- **Reduction of Emissions:** As part of our sustainability goals, we are committed to making a concerted effort to provide greater access to energy and reduce emissions from our operations. As a result of our efforts to minimize our contribution to air pollution, we have identified two main sources of greenhouse gas emissions, which are energy and diesel consumption by engines used in our buildings and on the University campus, including our offices and auditoriums.

Measurement and Reporting of Carbon Emissions: SSU is committed to transparency and accountability in our efforts to mitigate climate change. In accordance with our commitment to sustainability, the University rigorously monitors and reports its total Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, exemplified by figures of 825 tonnes (tCO₂e) in 2022 and 732 tonnes (tCO₂e) in 2023, reflecting our ongoing efforts to quantify and mitigate direct emissions from sources such as on-campus fossil fuel combustion (Scope 1) and indirect emissions from purchased electricity (Scope 2). By quantifying and disclosing these emissions, we aim to track progress, identify opportunities for improvement, and demonstrate our dedication to sustainability to our stakeholders. This data forms a critical component of our ongoing Climate action policy, guiding our strategies towards achieving carbon neutrality and fostering a resilient and environmentally responsible campus community. By embracing the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard as the cornerstone of our Climate Action policy, we establish a strong and globally acknowledged framework for quantifying, overseeing, and diminishing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- Also direct and indirect production of vermicompost from food waste in SSU, composting of cigarette butts, reduction of chlorine content by electrochemical method, use of waste paper as absorbent in oil-polluted water bodies, wireless transmission of electricity, renewable energy emissions have been reduced by planting hyperaccumulator plants in order to increase the use of energy sources, energy saving and efficiency, and increase the greenness of the campus yard.

- Renewable energy: SSU has planned to purchase energy from waste and install thermoelectric converters from SDG 7.

Section 2. Mission and Scope

2.1. Mission

Climate Action and Sustainability Policy of SSU serves to improve the environment as a result of solving existing environmental problems, to restore an ecologically clean world, to save natural resources when using alternative energy, and to reduce negative factors affecting the environment. Our main goal is to lead academically based sustainability projects and apply the results in a wider arena.

Objectives:

Short-term 2025 and long-term 2035 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals

a. Quality education (SDG 4)

Short-term (until 2025):

- Goal 1: to achieve at least one of the stated goals by 2025;
- Goal 2: Prioritize sustainability and climate action policies in essentially all teacher education programs by 2025;
- Goal 3: Create a fully functioning sustainability eco club with potential students by 2025;

Long-term (until 2035):

- Goal 4: Build a majority of carbon neutral infrastructure from scratch to achieve carbon neutrality on campus by 2035;

Goal 5: Use of environmentally friendly construction materials used in the renovation and restoration of campus infrastructure;

b. Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

Short-term (until 2025):

- Goal 1: To achieve a 30% reduction in water consumption;
- Objective 2: to compile a comprehensive two-year water schedule;

Long-term (until 2035):

- Goal 3: Establish active participation in water conservation by 2035;
- Goal 4: By 2035, the transformation of waste water used on campus into technical water

c. Climate Change (SDG13)

Short-term (until 2025):

- Goal 1: to familiarize with the work of climate research centers by 2025;
- Goal 2: To organize the first international conference on climate;

Long-term (until 2035):

- Goal 3: To reduce the University's greenhouse gas emissions include Scope 1 (direct emissions from owned or controlled sources), Scope 2 (indirect emissions from the production of purchased energy) and Scope 3 (all indirect emissions not included in Scope 2) emissions to become a Net Zero University by 2040.

In alignment with global efforts to mitigate climate change, SSU is committed to achieving substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. By at least 2040, we aim to significantly diminish our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which encompass direct emissions from owned or controlled sources and indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heating, and cooling. This commitment underscores our dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainability leadership within higher education. Through ongoing assessment, innovation in campus operations, and partnerships with stakeholders, the University seeks to not only meet but exceed these targets, fostering a resilient and low-carbon future for our campus community and beyond

- Goal 4: Cooperate with four international organizations.

2. 2. Scope of the policy

The scope of the Climate Action Policy for SSU reflects climate change action. The main goal of the policy is to determine the internal and international relations of SSU.

Some key elements of a policy framework are:

Campus Operations: This Policy is intended to cover all aspects of SSU's campus. For example, energy use, waste management, efficient use of water resources, building design and use of environmentally friendly building materials and increasing green areas, etc.

Academic Programs: The policy provides for academic programs and activities in educational programs for climate change, sustainability and environmental protection, creating a fertile environment for managing, protecting and restoring ecosystems.

Community Outreach: SSU policy is always open to the public. This includes businesses, organizations and other communities to ensure sustainability, share knowledge and collaborate on climate-related projects.

Emissions Reduction: Short-term and long-term goals aim to achieve positive policy outcomes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 35% reduction in energy demand and consumption and greenhouse gas emissions on the University campus, by 2035. Implementing new building standards and integrating resiliency best practices into renewal and construction projects will help improve energy efficiency across the Campus. (Scope 1).

Transitioning of SSU's vehicle to electric fleet by 2035 and development of necessary infrastructure to host electric vehicles used by University employees on campus. (Scope 1, 2 and 3)

Renewable Energy: Short and long-term goals include transitioning to renewable energy sources to meet all campus energy needs. A new solar panel installation is planned for 2025 and aims to expand by 2030. The goal is to provide 40% of the University's electricity consumption with renewable energy by 2030 (Scope 2).

Student participation: Students will actively participate in the implementation of climate change policy. This includes the activities of the eco club and other initiatives.

2.3. Planned activities and policy implementation

The planned activities are as follows:

Students:

- Awareness of sustainable development and climate change should be the main objective;
- Promoting sustainable development and climate change, creating awareness about the need to protect the environment and revitalising student participation inside and outside the campus.

University Management:

- Implement integrated actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal;
- Regular reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Regularly modifying and improving the Climate Change Action Policy in a positive direction;
- Enhancing knowledge and skills through experience.

Policy Implementation

Alignment: All academic staff and administrative units should participate in this policy as a systematic and unified group.

Professional Development: Ensure enhancement of expertise of academic staff through appropriate special training programmes by qualified experts, from time to time.

Posting any innovation and experience gained by the faculty in training sessions on the campus portal and preparing a report

Co-operation: closely co-operate with internal and external universities of the republic, implement joint projects.



Stakeholder engagement: build relationships with industry leaders on graduate employment issues.







3. Monitoring and reporting



3.1. Monitoring and reporting

The Climate Change Committee monitors and evaluates results in order to track key achievements and continuously improve the action plan. Therefore it prepares regular monitoring reports on CO2 emission reductions.

3.2. Compliance with SDG

 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>Our safety programme promotes and monitors compliance with internal labour protection and safety regulations, as well as local laws and international standards.</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>By offering scholarships, organising educational events and collaborating with leading universities and industrial enterprises, we integrate the curricula of academic fields with sustainability, environmental ethics and ESG ("Environmental", "Social" and "Governance") issues, opportunity to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge. At the same time, the Career and Graduate employment centre is designed to encourage and facilitate the development of our internal stakeholders. For this reason, one of our main commitments is to develop skills in environmental responsibility through extensive research and community initiatives.</p>

<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>As a responsible employer, we are committed to realising equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Our training and development programmes are designed in the same way for all our employees, regardless of gender or age, so that everyone can perform to the best of their skills. We look for ways to ensure appropriate representation amongst our employees, particularly in leadership roles. The results of the satisfaction survey identified actions to be implemented in 2022 to improve women's engagement.</p>
<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> 	<p>We regularly cooperate with other organisations for effective water management. Preparation of proposals for economical use of water and improvement of its quality, obtaining optimal options for water treatment and improvement of irrigation systems. At the same time, it creates conditions for taking necessary measures to restore springs.</p>
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>We aim to contribute to sustainable economic growth in the country by offering internship programmes, primarily working with local suppliers to provide students with employment opportunities.</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>We have a certain responsibility to society in the area of sustainable society development, which is why we continue to implement projects and programmes aimed at society development and educational opportunities.</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>Waste generated by our operations is sent to recycling facilities and we ensure that all waste is disposed of in accordance with local legislation and international standards to minimise the impact on climate change.</p>
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	<p>As a result of our activities, we emphasize the need to combat climate change. Our actions to protect the environment and the health and safety of our faculty, students and staff help to minimise the impact of climate change. In order to acquire SDG 13, it is important to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure environmental sustainability.</p>

	<p>As we recognise that our activities have the potential to affect life above ground and terrestrial ecosystems, we use the latest technology to minimise potential hazards. We have developed a framework for responding to potential risks in a timely and integrated manner, taking into account the protection of the campus' natural and ecological values and the balance of conservation and use.</p>
	<p>By continuing our efforts to support national values, we promote peace and justice in our society.</p>

Allocation of resources

Financial obligation will be created in the direction of successfully solving the indicated problems. Grants, local and foreign projects are planned for this purpose.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

UN - United Nations Organization

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

GHG – Gases that produce a warming effect

SSU – Sumgayit State University

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

BSU – Baku State University

AUAC - Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction

ASPU - Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University

ASOSU - Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University

ISSA – Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry

UM – Institute of Microbiology

IRP – Institute of Radiation Problems

PMI – Polymer Materials Institute

IPP – Institute of Petrochemical Processes

IP – Institute of Physics

KSU – Kazan State University

USOTU – Ufa State Oil Technical University