



CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION

Introduction:

- 1.1. The Climate Action Policy for Baku State University (hereinafter - BSU) outlines the aim of addressing the pressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable practices within the university community. By adopting this policy, BSU seeks to contribute to global efforts in mitigating climate change and fostering a sustainable future. This climate action policy is developed with an academic perspective, emphasizing research, education, and engagement as key pillars for achieving meaningful change.

Current situation:

- 1.2. Current situation is as the following:
- **The International Engagement of BSU:** BSU demonstrates a dedication to sustainability that transcends geographical boundaries. BSU actively engages in regional and international networks that prioritize sustainability and higher education. These networks include esteemed associations and institutions such as the Eurasian Universities Union (EURAS), the Eurasian Universities Association (EUA), The Association of State Universities of Caspian Region Countries, the Black Sea Universities Network, CIS International Innovation Centre for Nanotechnology, and EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) and so on. These affiliations serve to emphasize our dedication and offer opportunities for cooperation and the sharing of knowledge on the most effective sustainability measures with similar organizations globally.
 - **Sustainable Procurement and Collaboration:** BSU's involvement in sustainable procurement encompasses not just its campus activities but also extends to collaborative endeavours with federal and international entities, alongside non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The dedication to sustainable practices at BSU is demonstrated through the active participation of its employees, including the chair of hydrometeorology, in various projects carried out by esteemed organizations such as the UN Development Program, the TACIS Program of the European Commission, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the

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Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Melioration and Water Industry Open Joint-Stock Company. These collaborative efforts exemplify our commitment to promoting sustainability within and outside the realm of academia.

- **Research and Innovation in Sustainability:** BSU is actively engaged in cutting-edge research and innovation pertaining to sustainability and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Department of Gender and Applied Psychology, for example, actively engages in international conferences such as the Worldwide Feminine International Conference. In addition, the institution organizes a multitude of training and educational initiatives that are specifically focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programs encompass a diverse array of subjects, such as "An Overview of Gender Studies," "The Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Azerbaijan," "The Concept of Green and Blue Economy," "The Interplay between Food Security and Sustainable Development," "The Phenomenon of Urbanization and its Implications for Urban Planning," and other related topics. These programs not only possess theoretical foundations but also equip students with practical knowledge and skills necessary to effectively tackle sustainability concerns in the real world.
- **Emissions Reduction:** The heating systems in BSU buildings have been transitioned to a clean and sustainable heating system, specifically the Modul type. According to the University Purchasing policy hybrid cars have been purchased and are currently in use for our service needs. There is a plan in place to gradually replace all other BSU vehicles with sustainable hybrid cars.
- **Renewable Energy:** A single solar panel has been installed at BSU, and there are plans to install additional solar panels across the campus to promote sustainability.

Legal base

- 1.3. The legal foundation Climate Action Policy for BSU is based on a combination of national and international laws and regulations, as well as the Laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Presidential Decrees, Cabinet of Ministries' orders, BSU's Charter, Decisions of the BSU Scientific Council and this Climate Action Policy.

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SECTION 2: MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY

Mission:

- 2.1. The Climate Action Policy of BSU is founded on a profound dedication to promoting a sustainable future, which entails the integration of rigorous scholarly research and active engagement with the community. Recognizing its position as the foremost educational establishment in Azerbaijan, BSU understands the profound impact of academics in fostering resilience, fostering creativity, and cultivating a clear comprehension of global environmental concerns. Our primary objective is to lead in academic-based sustainability projects, employing knowledge to generate practical solutions that surpass geographical limitations and contribute to worldwide environmental sustainability.

Objectives:

- 2.2. SDG-aligned short-term and long-term 2030 targets

a. Quality Education (SDG 4)

Short-Term (By 2025):

- **Objective 1:** By the year 2025, the aim is to create and execute a minimum of one course with a primary focus on sustainability within each academic department.
- **Objective 2:** By the year 2025, it is imperative to incorporate modules on sustainability and climate change into all teacher training programs.
- **Objective 3:** To establish a fully operational sustainability club with robust student engagement by the year 2025.

Long-Term (By 2030):

- **Objective 4:** By the year 2030, aims to provide funding and resources for a minimum of 10 research projects focused on sustainability, each supervised by academic members.
- **Objective 5:** To establish a minimum of 50 scholarships focused on sustainability each year by the year 2030.

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b. Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

Short-Term (By 2025):

- **Objective 1:** Achieve a 20% reduction in water consumption relative to the baseline level by the year 2025.
- **Objective 2:** Implement a comprehensive schedule of at least two annual water conservation seminars and four workshops by the year 2025.

Long-Term (By 2030):

- **Objective 3:** By the year 2030, establish active involvement in water conservation endeavours with a minimum of five local communities.
- **Objective 4:** By the year 2030, the aim is to form collaborative alliances with a minimum of three universities within the region, with the purpose of exchanging information and expertise.

c. Climate Action (SDG 13)

Short-Term (By 2025):

- **Objective 1:** Develop and implement a climate research centre by the year 2025.
- **Objective 2:** Organize and convene the inaugural global conference on climate action, aiming to attract delegates from a minimum of five nations, to be accomplished by the year 2025.

Long-Term (By 2030):

- **Objective 3:** To attain a 30% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the baseline by the year 2030.
- **Objective 4:** Achieve active membership in a minimum of three international climate accords or initiatives by the year 2030, thereby gaining recognition as a prominent participant.

Scope of the Policy:

2.3. The scope of the Climate Action Policy for BSU outlines the areas and activities within the university that the policy covers. It defines the boundaries and focus of the policy's implementation. Some key elements of the scope of the policy:

- **Campus Operations:** The policy will cover all aspects of BSU's campus operations, including energy use, transportation, waste management, water conservation, building design and construction, and the maintenance of green spaces.
- **Academic Programs:** The policy will extend to academic programs and research activities related to climate change, sustainability, and environmental conservation. Acting in educational programmes for sustainably manage and protection of aquatic and coastal ecosystems to escape significant conflicting impacts, their restoration with the intention of achievement healthy and productive environment.
- **Community Engagement:** BSU's policy may include efforts to engage with the wider community, including residents, businesses, and organizations, to promote sustainability, share knowledge, and collaborate on climate-related projects.
- **Emissions Reduction:** In short term and long-term objectives is defined specific emissions reduction targets that the policy aims to achieve.
- **Renewable Energy:** In short term and long-term objectives is specified the transition to renewable energy sources for all campus energy needs, including electricity, heating, and cooling.
- **Student Involvement:** students will actively participate in climate action efforts, through extracurricular activities, and student-led initiatives.

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SECTION 3: PLANNED ACTIVITIES, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Planned activities.

3.1. Planned activities are as the following:

a. By Students:

- Regular sustainability awareness efforts should be conducted, with a focus on achieving measurable outcomes.
- Encouraging and fostering student engagement in sustainability initiatives both within the campus community and in external contexts.

b. By University Management:

- Attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) compatible objectives.
- The ongoing decrease in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- The Climate Action Policy undergoes periodic modifications and refinements to include the latest advancements in knowledge and best practices.

3.2. Execution of the Policy:

- **Alignment:** The coordination of all academic and administrative departments will be focused on achieving shared sustainability objectives.
- **Professional Development:** Tailored training programs designed for staff and academic members will facilitate the acquisition of expertise in sustainability best practices.
- **The act of reporting progress** on a regular basis and in a transparent manner would facilitate the provision of community feedback and enhance accountability.
- **Collaboration** has a vital role in enhancing sustainability programs, since it fosters interdisciplinary collaborations that extend beyond the confines of the university.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The prioritization of inclusive engagement from students, staff, alumni, and the community in the processes of policy development, execution, and feedback.

3.3. Monitoring and reporting:

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- The Climate Action Committee advocates for the implementation of a comprehensive monitoring protocol that incorporates third-party organizations to conduct impartial annual audits. This protocol also emphasizes the integration of stakeholders into feedback loops.

3.4. Compliance with the SDGs:

- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG):** BSU actively collaborates with the Water Experts Union and the IHP Azerbaijan NGO, in accordance with the objectives outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 6, which emphasizes the importance of clean water and sanitation. These collaborations play a crucial role in tackling the ramifications of climate change on water resources. The involvement of our team in initiatives related to flood protection, early warning systems, and catastrophe avoidance serves as a testament to our dedication towards the implementation of sustainable water management strategies. To significantly promote water conservation, we are undertaking a comprehensive and diverse approach. This encompasses the deployment of sophisticated irrigation systems to optimize water utilization, the integration of low-flow fixtures to minimize water loss, and educational initiatives targeting the promotion of conscientious water consumption. Through the adoption of these measures, BSU is actively making a valuable contribution towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6. Furthermore, the university is effectively demonstrating itself as an exemplar for sustainable water management methods within our local community.
- **Climate Action (SDG 13):** BSU's dedication to SDG 13, which centers on climate action, underscores the necessity of addressing climate change. Although a particular goal date for reaching carbon neutrality has not been established, our continued study in this area demonstrates our commitment to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, it is imperative to acknowledge the necessity of customizing climate change information, factual data, consequences, and adaptation strategies to effectively cater to distinct target populations. In pursuit of this objective, we are currently engaged in the active development and customization of climate-related initiatives, considering many elements like age

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demographics, types and degrees of educational institutions, and unique requirements within diverse contexts. BSU demonstrates a steadfast dedication to establishing ambitious and quantifiable objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, thereby aligning our endeavors with global climate objectives. Our organization will conduct regular and transparent evaluations of our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and provide comprehensive reports to track our advancements in meeting these objectives. Furthermore, our dedication encompasses the safeguarding and augmentation of environmentally friendly areas inside the university grounds. By actively advocating for the preservation of biodiversity and establishing suitable habitats for indigenous fauna, we are making a significant contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 and the overarching objective of environmental sustainability.

- **Quality Education (SDG 4):** SDG 4, which focuses on Quality Education, entails our commitment to include sustainability, environmental ethics, and aggressive climate action into the curricula of many academic fields. The commitment of our organization is in fostering a culture of environmental responsibility through extensive research and community-based initiatives, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action).

SECTION 4: RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Resource Allocation: To ensure the successful implementation of the proposed projects, it will be imperative to establish firm financial obligations. This will necessitate a combination of internal resources, external grants, and strategic partnerships with international institutions and industry stakeholders to jointly support the targeted initiatives.

History and Updates

Date	Updates	Page	Purpose
20/12/2022	Issue date Revision date Revision number	All pages. Footer	To show the history and updates
25/09/2023	Page number	All pages. Header	To define the information spot
25/09/2023	Added one point to Academic programs Scope of the policy	7	To show accessibility
25/09/2023	History and Updates table	11	To illustrate changes and corrections

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