



Baku State University

CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION

Introduction

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 from an academic perspective, emphasizing research, education, and engagement as key pillars for achieving meaningful change.





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Current situation

Current situation is as the following:



eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION



EURAS
Avrasya Universiteler Birliđi
Eurasian Universities Union



aashe

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.



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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 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.





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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. After the implementation of the Policy, BSU has achieved a reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions from 2213 tCO₂e to 1767 tCO₂e, representing a nearly 20% decrease in 2023/2024 academic year. The university successfully lowered its Scope 3 carbon emissions from 2515 tCO₂e to 2213 tCO₂e, marking a 10% reduction in 2023/2024 academic year. Below mentioned factors have affected this:

1. Implementation of energy-efficient lighting systems, including LED installations across campus buildings.
2. Upgrading HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems to more efficient models.
3. Conducting energy audits and optimizing operational hours for campus facilities.
4. Expansion of solar panel installations to provide renewable energy for selected campus buildings.



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5. Exploring partnerships for procuring green energy from renewable sources.
6. Encouraging the use of public transport and carpooling among staff and students to reduce Scope 3 emissions.
7. Expanding electric vehicle charging stations and promoting bicycle usage on campus.
8. Strengthening the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategy in waste management, reducing landfill emissions.
9. Enhancing composting programs to minimize organic waste-related emissions.
10. Conducting sustainability awareness campaigns to encourage environmentally responsible behaviors.
11. Establishing internal policies promoting carbon reduction, sustainable procurement, and responsible energy usage.

BSU takes 2021 as the baseline year, during which its Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions were recorded at 2567 tCO₂e.



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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.





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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.





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All new construction projects at Baku State University incorporate sustainable building design principles. This includes the use of energy-efficient materials, natural lighting, and advanced insulation techniques to minimize energy consumption.

The university actively explores integrating renewable energy sources such as solar panels and geothermal systems into building designs to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy.

Regular energy audits are conducted to assess the energy performance of existing buildings. This helps identify areas for improvement and ensures that renovations are aligned with energy efficiency goals.

The university provides training programs for staff and students to raise awareness about energy efficiency practices and the importance of sustainability in building management.

Baku State University collaborates with local and international experts to ensure that all projects comply with the latest energy efficiency standards and technologies.



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Legal base

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.





SECTION 2: MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY



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.





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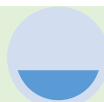
OBJECTIVES

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

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

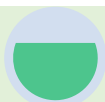
2030 

Short-Term (By 2026)



Objective 1

By the year 2026, 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 2026, it is imperative to incorporate modules on sustainability and climate change into all teacher training programs.

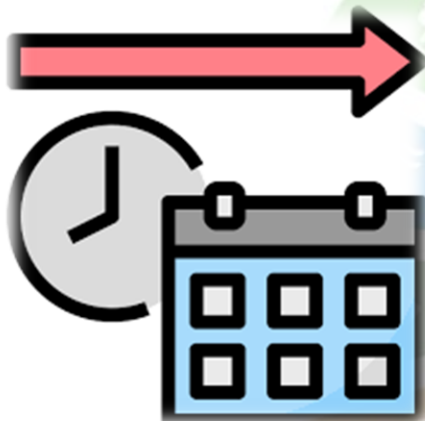


Objective 3

To establish a fully operational sustainability clubs with robust student engagement by the year 2026.



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.

To establish a minimum of 50 scholarships focused on sustainability each year by the year 2030.

Objective 5



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Climate Action (SDG 13)



Carbon Footprint Reduction

- Reduce campus-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to a baseline year.
- Conduct an annual carbon audit to track emissions from buildings, transportation, and energy use.
- Transition at least 50% of campus energy sources to renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.) by 2035.

Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Infrastructure

- Implement green building standards (LEED or BREEAM principles) for new constructions and renovations.
- Reduce energy consumption by 20% by 2030 through efficiency improvements (LED lighting, smart meters, HVAC upgrades).
- Establish a campus-wide energy monitoring system to optimize energy use.

Sustainable Transportation



- Reduce reliance on private cars by promoting public transport, cycling, and walking, with a target of 40% of students and staff using sustainable transport by 2030.
- Introduce electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on campus.
- Encourage carpooling programs and shuttle services for faculty and students.

Waste Reduction and Circular Economy

- Achieve at least 50% waste diversion from landfills by implementing recycling and composting programs by 2028.
- Reduce single-use plastics on campus by eliminating plastic packaging and promoting reusable alternatives.
- Introduce a food waste reduction program in campus cafeterias.

Water Conservation and Climate Resilience

- Reduce water consumption by 20% by 2030 through efficient water fixtures, rainwater harvesting, and smart irrigation.
- Improve stormwater management to prevent flooding and enhance groundwater recharge.
- Introduce drought-resistant landscaping and green roofs to minimize water use.

Research, Education, and Community Engagement

- Integrate climate action principles into university curricula across disciplines.
- Support research initiatives on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including local and regional climate challenges.



- Develop community outreach programs to promote sustainability awareness in Baku and Azerbaijan.
- Establish an annual 'Climate Action Forum' at BSU to engage policymakers, students, and researchers in climate discussions.

Institutional Governance and Partnerships

- Establish a Sustainability Office to oversee climate action implementation.
- Develop partnerships with international organizations (e.g., UNDP, AASHE, local municipalities) to leverage funding and expertise.
- Ensure annual public reporting on climate action progress and updates.

1.4 Scope of the Policy

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:



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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.



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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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Energy Efficiency of New Builds at Baku State University

Baku State University is committed to promoting sustainability and energy efficiency in its infrastructure development and deeply committed to sustainability and energy conservation, recognizing the importance of upgrading existing buildings to higher energy efficiency standards. This commitment is part of the university's broader strategy to reduce its carbon footprint and promote a more sustainable campus environment.

The university recognizes the importance of adhering to energy efficiency standards for all renovations and new construction projects to contribute to environmental sustainability and energy conservation.

Key Initiatives

Sustainable Building Design

All new construction projects at Baku State University incorporate sustainable building design principles. This includes the use of energy-efficient materials, natural lighting, and advanced insulation techniques to minimize energy consumption.



Renewable Energy Integration

The university actively explores integrating renewable energy sources such as solar panels and geothermal systems into building designs to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy.



Energy Audits and Monitoring:

Regular energy audits are conducted to assess the energy performance of existing buildings. This helps identify areas for improvement and ensures that renovations are aligned with energy efficiency goals.

Green Building Training Programs:

The university provides training programs for staff and students to raise awareness about energy efficiency practices and the importance of sustainability in building management.



GREEN BUILDING



Collaboration with Experts:

Baku State University collaborates with local and international experts to ensure that all projects comply with the latest energy efficiency standards and technologies.



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Low-Carbon Energy Use at Baku State University

Baku State University recognizes the importance of transitioning to low-carbon energy sources and is dedicated to implementing comprehensive strategies to achieve this goal. By investing in renewable energy, promoting energy efficiency, and fostering a culture of sustainability, BSU is committed to reducing its environmental impact and contributing to a more sustainable future.



Low-Carbon Future



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Commitment to Sustainability

Baku State University is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and promoting sustainability across all its operations. This commitment is reflected in our efforts to transition to low-carbon energy sources.

Energy Audits and Monitoring

BSU regularly conducts energy audits to assess and monitor energy consumption across campus facilities. These audits help identify areas where energy efficiency can be improved, and low-carbon alternatives can be implemented.

We utilize energy management systems to track and analyze energy usage patterns, allowing for more informed decision-making in energy consumption and conservation efforts.

Renewable Energy Sources

BSU has initiated projects to integrate renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind turbines, into the campus energy infrastructure. These initiatives aim to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and increase the share of renewable energy in our energy mix.

We are exploring partnerships with local and international organizations to further expand our renewable energy capabilities and expertise.



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Energy Efficiency Programs

Energy efficiency is a cornerstone of our sustainability strategy. BSU has implemented energy-saving measures such as LED lighting, efficient HVAC systems, and smart building technologies to minimize energy waste

The university promotes energy conservation awareness among students, faculty, and staff through workshops, campaigns, and educational programs.

Low-Carbon Transportation

To reduce emissions associated with transportation, BSU encourages the use of public transportation, cycling, and carpooling. We have established dedicated cycling lanes and bike-sharing programs on campus.

The university is exploring options for electric vehicle charging stations to support the adoption of electric vehicles among our community members.



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Collaborative Research and Innovation

BSU actively engages in research projects focused on low-carbon technologies and sustainable energy solutions. Our faculty and students are involved in cutting-edge research to develop innovative approaches to energy conservation and carbon reduction.

Collaboration with industry partners and government agencies enhances our ability to implement and scale low-carbon energy solutions.

Reporting and Transparency

BSU is committed to transparency in our sustainability efforts. We regularly publish reports on our energy consumption, carbon emissions, and progress toward sustainability goals.

The university participates in national and international sustainability initiatives and benchmarks its performance against global standards.



Reducing Plastic Waste

Baku State University (BSU) is committed to reducing plastic waste on campus through several initiatives:

Awareness and Education

- We conduct workshops and campaigns to educate students and staff about the impact of plastic waste and promote sustainable alternatives.

Plastic-Free Initiatives

BSU is minimizing the use of single-use plastics, promoting reusable bottles, and providing water refill stations across campus.

Waste Management

The university has a recycling program with designated bins for plastic waste and collaborates with local companies for proper recycling.





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Research and Innovation

We support research into sustainable materials and biodegradable alternatives to plastic.

Partnerships

- BSU collaborates with organizations to align with environmental standards and participates in community projects to reduce plastic pollution.

Monitoring and Incentives

A dedicated team monitors our initiatives' progress, and we offer incentives for using reusable containers at campus facilities.

Stakeholder Engagement

We work with students, staff, and the community to promote collective responsibility for reducing plastic waste.



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SECTION 3: PLANNED ACTIVITIES, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Planned activities

Planned activities are as the following:

By Students:

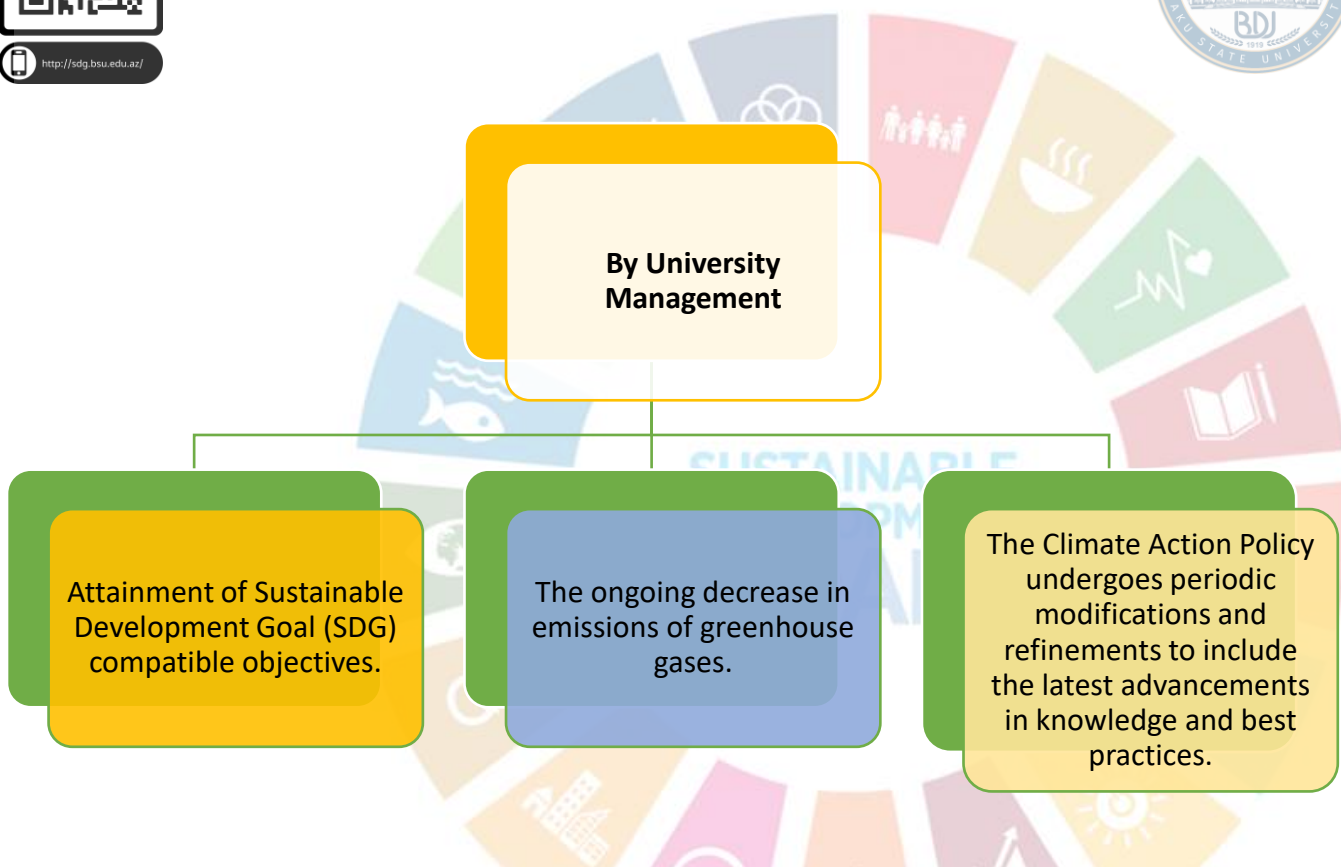
Regular sustainability awareness efforts should be conducted, with a focus on achieving measurable outcomes.

Encouraging and fostering student engagement in sustainability initiatives both within the campus community and in external contexts.



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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.



Professional Development



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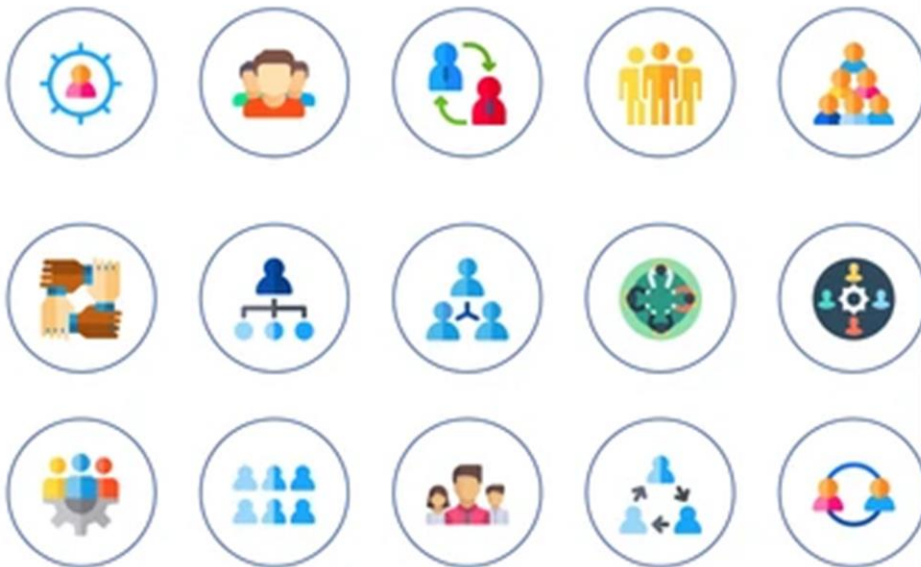


Collaboration

- 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.





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Monitoring and reporting

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.





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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

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.



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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 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





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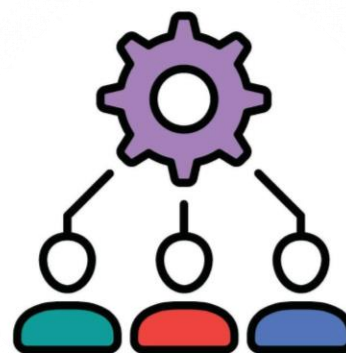
indigenous fauna, we are making a significant contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 and the overarching objective of environmental sustainability.



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 to foster 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.



Resource Allocation