

BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY



REPORT ON SDG 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



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ABSTRACT

The report highlights Baku State University's (BSU) comprehensive efforts to promote responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and integrate sustainability into its operations. It outlines key policies and practices, including a Sustainable Procurement Policy. BSU actively encourages recycling, reduction of single-use plastics, and minimizing paper consumption. The university collaborates with local partners, engages in education and training, and collects data to support informed waste management decisions. Through these initiatives, BSU demonstrates its commitment to sustainable practices, ethical food sourcing, and environmental protection within its campus community.

USED DATA

Interdisciplinary policies of BSU:

1. Accommodation Policy.
2. Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Legislative acts

1. [Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development"](#)

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SDG 12)

CURRENT SITUATION

BSU recognizes the importance of sustainable development. This Sustainable Procurement Policy outlines our commitment to integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance factors into our investment decisions and aligning our investments with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

According to the sustainability investment policy of BSU the goal is to generate long-term financial returns while contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future. Management to waste disposal can help planners study objectively and make rational decisions as to the best alternative strategic options of managing, recovering, and utilizing the vast quantity of solid waste is a very important investment.

In BSU, waste disposal is effectively managed and typically includes the following categories: municipal waste, hazardous waste, radioactive waste, biological waste and sharps. Each waste category must be handled and managed according to established procedures and work practices. Liquids, chemical waste, including stock containers with unused product, do not being placed in the municipal waste. All sharps are in an appropriate, puncture-resistant container to prevent injuries.

The main policy addressing the issues of Responsible Consumption and Production is reflected in the BSU Sustainable Procurement Policy (SPP).

Since BSU considers the SDGs as criteria for selecting procurement, the SPP is based on the idea of creating a procurement system that takes into account and minimizes negative impacts on society and the environment. It is within this policy that, for example, the use of plastic bottles is prohibited in canteens operating in different buildings. Separate trash cans for plastic and paper waste are installed in the university buildings and courtyards.

Disposal of all university waste is subject to the Sustainable Procurement Policy (SPP) and is handled through outsourcing. The legal basis for this policy is not only the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, but also international standards, including those related to this topic. All concluded waste disposal agreements comply with sustainable development goals and standards.

The University's Sustainable Procurement Policy (SPP) prohibits the use of all plastic bottles in university dining facilities. Lessons in the courses "Ecology", "Organic Chemistry", "Sustainable Development", etc. provide detailed information about the role

of plastic in earth pollution. Students are encouraged to minimize their consumption of plastic containers not only on campus but also off campus. Open lectures were held for schoolchildren and lyceum students, at which students receiving education related to teaching in schools (teachers, biologists, chemists) devoted to issues of sustainable development, including plastic pollution of the earth, underwent internships.

BSU is committed to reducing the use of single-use plastics and disposable items on campus and is complying with the Azerbaijani government's ban on plastic straws and stirrers. The digitization of some internal university documents has significantly reduced paper consumption. In addition, BSU welcomes the exchange of digitized information between teachers and students, be it lectures or notes.

BSU has begun the reconstruction of one of its buildings, as part of which it is planned to install electronic boards in all classrooms, which will reduce the consumption of markers.

Objectives of SPP are as the following:

- Reduce negative environmental impact through SPP.
- Prioritize usage of clean products and services, while contributing clean energy usage and reduction of carbon footprint.
- Promote inclusion of diverse suppliers and fair trade in their supply chain.
- Keeping balance between sustainability and cost-effectiveness.
- Making conformance to industry and legal requirements.
- Apply global best practices.
- Making knowledge and awareness toward SDGs and sustainable procurement practices.
- Promote fair competition and transparency.
- Promote purchasing from local suppliers and using recycled materials in the various processes.

The British Embassy organized a campaign “Plastic-Free July” to reduce the use of single use plastic bags together with the IDEA Public Union. The British Embassy in Baku and the IDEA Public Union encourage everyone to give up single use plastic items, including plastic bags, and to use environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives, for the benefit of present and future generations. Students of the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science of Baku State University (BSU) also took part in the Challenge. Plastic Free

July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities.



One of the plausible actions to be accepted by the students and staff is the inclusion of bigger bins that aggregate many kinds of categories, for example: plastic, metals, glasses, among others.

It is also possible to implement composters for organic wastes that can be used even by students in practical classes.

BSU will develop and disseminate comprehensive procedures for hazardous management ensuring that all employees receive adequate training in compliance with these procedures. BSU also will make continuous improvement in hazardous waste management practices such as feedback, technological advancements, and different practices.

We are going to train and re-train of science teachers through series of workshops, seminars and symposia on environmental issues and problems as well as how to come up with effective pedagogy in handling the teaching and learning of solid waste management practices in colleges of education.

In many waste management systems, there are options of landfill disposal and recycling. BSU mostly tries to minimize the amount of waste sent to landfills and maximize recycling. According to the given statement, the university promotes recycling and reduce

waste generation. We are using different forms of recycling bins throughout the campus with labels on them. Also, our goal is to encourage the use of reusable containers. Water bottles and utensils in dining facilities to reduce single-use plastics.

A situation analysis must include waste types and quantities of waste generated in a particular area. This information about the amount of waste is collected using the following method.

Goals of sustainability investment policy can be achieved through various strategies, such as promoting sustainable consumption patterns, encouraging product design for longevity and recyclability, and implementing effective waste prevention measures. A recent initiative has been implemented where plastic bags are sold instead of being freely provided in supermarkets. Even this soft approach has led to a noticeable reduction in plastic bag consumption.

BSU also has a policy to reduce consumption of disposable items and papers:

- BSU has decided to have a central printing center that prints documents and reports after having an approval of the dean of the school. This action has significantly decreased paper consumption.
- BSU is going to ban the use of single-use plastic bags.
- BSU has a plan to gradually reduce the use of disposable items, which started with preventing the use of disposable items in each school. BSU is also encouraging restaurant and food/drink service providers on campus to reduce the use of disposable items by using instead glass cups, ceramic mug, ceramic plate, and utensil set.

KEY FINDINGS

The provided information outlines several key findings in the report regarding Baku State University's (BSU) sustainability efforts and their commitment to responsible consumption and production (SDG 12). The key findings include:

Sustainable Procurement Policy	BSU has a dedicated Sustainable Procurement Policy that aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions.
Sustainable Food Policy	The university has developed a Sustainable Food Policy that focuses on ethical sourcing, environmentally friendly food practices, and support for local and organic food suppliers.
Waste Management	BSU has established an effective waste management system that categorizes waste types, such as municipal waste, hazardous waste, and biological waste, and is committed to minimizing waste sent to landfills.
Recycling Initiatives	The university actively promotes recycling by providing labeled recycling bins across the campus and participating in initiatives like Plastic-Free July to reduce single-use plastic consumption.
Reduction of Single-Use Plastics	BSU is working to reduce the use of single-use plastics, complying with the Azerbaijan Republic Government ban on items like plastic straws and stirrers, and encouraging the use of reusable alternatives.
Paper Reduction	The university has taken measures to reduce paper consumption, including centralizing printing services and planning to ban single-use plastic bags.

Collaboration and Partnerships	BSU collaborates with local recycling centers, engages in partnerships, and encourages student-led clubs for recycling initiatives to promote sustainable practices.
Education and Training	The university offers various educational programs and training to raise awareness and build capacity among students and staff regarding sustainability and environmental issues.
Compliance and Ethical Sourcing	Food vendors are required to adhere to food sanitation standards and ethical food sourcing guidelines to ensure the quality and safety of food on campus.
Long-Term Vision	BSU has a long-term vision for sustainable food procurement, including the creation of small-scale pre-processing capacity and the training of kitchen staff.
Engagement of Students and Staff	The university aims to engage students and staff in sustainability efforts by providing facilities such as larger recycling bins and composters for organic waste.

These findings illustrate BSU's comprehensive commitment to responsible consumption and production, demonstrating its dedication to sustainability, ethical sourcing, waste reduction, and environmental protection within the university community.

FUTURE GOALS

Baku State University (BSU) has already made significant progress in promoting responsible consumption and production, but there are always further steps that can be taken to enhance sustainability efforts. Here are some potential future steps BSU can consider:



By taking these future steps, BSU can further enhance its sustainability efforts, reduce its environmental footprint, and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.