

BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY



REPORT ON SDG 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



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ABSTRACT

This report presents an overview of the measures undertaken by our university to support Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) in the context of water resource management and conservation. Through a comprehensive questionnaire, our university's policies, practices, and future initiatives have been assessed.

The report reveals that the university has a rigorous approach to water consumption, tracking the total volume of water used and employing water meters for monthly consumption measurement. It also highlights the measures taken to treat wastewater for plant irrigation and the use of sustainable landscape practices, such as drought-tolerant plants and drip irrigation.

While the university is in the early stages of developing a policy for water reuse, it is actively involved in community education initiatives related to water management. These include seminars, conferences, and collaborations with local, national, and international organizations.

The report underscores the university's efforts to promote conscious water usage both on-campus and in the wider community with informative posters and academic research. Additionally, it discusses the involvement of the university's leadership in the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (IHP) National Committee of Azerbaijan, demonstrating the institution's commitment to water security at a national level.

In conclusion, this report demonstrates our university's commitment to sustainability, water conservation, and community engagement in the context of SDG 6. While the institution has made significant strides in addressing water-related challenges, there remains room for further improvement and the implementation of more robust policies and practices to ensure clean water and sanitation for all.

USED DATA

Interdisciplinary policies of BSU:

1. Accommodation Policy
2. Sustainable Investment Policy

Legislative acts

Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about additional measures to ensure efficient use of water resources.

SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation

CURRENT SITUATION

The source of drinking water used in Baku State University belongs to the Jeyranbatan reservoir. This water must meet certain standards/ is properly cleaned and fed into the public water supply. However, the water is not suitable for drinking directly from the tap. At the same time, water contains soil particles of various sizes. Accordingly, the water passes through filters that perform mechanical cleaning before entering the university's water reservoirs. In the rooms, filters are placed to bring the water directly from the tap to a clean state. In addition, there are water meters inside the university, which measure the monthly water consumption.

Currently, steps are being taken to clean water waste and use it for watering plants. Irrigation of plants causes more water scarcity especially in summer months. Due to the small amount of rainfall during the summer months, it is not possible to use rainwater harvesting to irrigate plant growth. Accordingly, it is considered that water waste will be cleaned and reused for plant irrigation.

Although the level of groundwater in the place where the university is located is high, it cannot be directly used because it is salty water. However, for about 50 years, it was used to drink water from the artesian well available inside it. In the next period, it is planned to install cleaning devices and filters inside it.

Rainwater harvesting system is available. so that rainwater flows from the roof to the pipes. The pipes are connected to the water reservoirs at the end. The plants are watered with the water collected in the water reservoirs. In addition, in order to prevent excessive water wastage, sensor taps are used in toilets. It is planned to use regulating devices to reduce the water pressure.



There are 2,500 trees and 1,000 m of bushes in the campus area of the university. Drought-tolerant plants dominate, Eldar tree, plane tree, olive tree, mulberry tree, saphora tree, blueberry, etc. Along with woody plants, shrub plants are also drought tolerant. Some of the other trees are drought tolerant. In the place where the university is located, the ground water is not very deep, as a result, the plants that are resistant to suction are also fed by ground water. Despite these mentioned facts, it is currently planned to use the drip irrigation method to reduce the water consumption for watering the plants.

However, investigation is being carried out in the direction of to maximize water reuse across the university. The installation of devices for the reuse of used water and the implementation of the cleaning process in accordance with it are considered.

On May 30, 2023, State Service for Control over Small Ships and Water Rescue of the Ministry of Emergency Situations held consultations on "Ensuring safety in water bodies" in Sabunchu and Khazar districts of Baku.

With the joint organization of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Sabirabad District Executive Authority, an educational event was held on May 12 in the city of Sabirabad on "Ensuring economical use of water in household and agriculture".

Based on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev dated September 29, 2022, within the framework of the measures to declare 2023 the "Year of Heydar Aliyev" in our country, with the organization of the State Water Resources Agency of Azerbaijan, on the topic "The development of the water sector of Azerbaijan is connected with the name of the national leader Heydar Aliyev" a scientific-practical conference was held.

On June 29, 2022, "Promoting partnership and activity in sustainable management of water resources" organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Karabakh Revival Fund, in the "Smart village" residential area in the village of Agali, Zangilan district.

There are posters in the university area about conscious water usage. These posters promote sustainable management of water resources.

Selective water disposal options in closet, as well as motion sensor faucets are used in WCs to prevent excess water usage. Additionally, academic staff of the university published the related articles:

1. G.Bayramov, N.M. Jafarova, A.A. Samadova - Methods of analysis of harmful substances in the industrial waste water oil industry
2. E.M.Gadirova, S.R.Hajiyeva, R.Y.Mammadov, G.I.Bayramov, U.N.Rustamova, N.M.Jafarova - Determination of toxic organic compounds in waste waters
3. S.R.Hajiyeva, N.T.Shamilov, N.M.Jafarova N.M.Rakida- Development of an ecologically friendly method for the chemical treatment of industrial wastewater generated in the oil industry
4. S.Hajieva, T.Aliyeva, M.Yusifova - The ecological state of Boyuk Shor lake of Azerbaijan
5. M.Yusifova ,S.G.Jafarova, G.R.Sariyeva, A.Sh.Abbasov - Environmental characteristics of biodiversity of Binagadi Kir Lake

The vice-rector of BSU Mr. Farda Imanov is the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) National Committee of Azerbaijan.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings from the provided information on Baku State University's water management and sustainability initiatives are as follows:

Water Source and Quality

The university sources its drinking water from the Jeyranbatan reservoir, which undergoes proper cleaning and meets certain quality standards. Water is not suitable for direct consumption due to soil particles and undergoes mechanical cleaning through filters before reaching the tap.

Water Conservation

Efforts are underway to clean and reuse water waste for plant irrigation.
Rainwater harvesting is in place to collect rainwater from the roof for plant watering.

Groundwater and Future

Despite high groundwater levels in the area, it cannot be

Plans	directly used due to salt content. Plans to install cleaning devices and filters for groundwater are in progress.
Landscape and Water Conservation	The university's campus features drought-tolerant plants, reducing water consumption for landscaping. The use of drip irrigation is planned to further reduce water use for plant watering.
Water Reuse Initiatives	The university is investigating methods to maximize water reuse. Potential installation of devices for water reuse and associated cleaning processes is being considered.
Community Education	The university actively engages in community education initiatives related to water management, including seminars, conferences, and collaborations with various organizations.
Awareness and Academic Contributions	The university promotes conscious water usage through informative posters on and off-campus. Academic staff contribute to water-related research and publications, enhancing understanding of water conservation.
Government Collaboration	The university collaborates with governments on water security, as evidenced by the Vice-Rector's role as Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (IHP) National Committee of Azerbaijan.

These findings highlight the university's commitment to sustainable water management, including responsible water sourcing, conservation, community education, and academic research. The university also plays an active role in collaborating with governmental bodies to address water-related challenges at local, national, and global levels. However, ongoing efforts and further developments are being pursued to enhance sustainability and meet Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) goals.

FUTURE GOALS

To further advance sustainability in water management and align with Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) goals, Baku State University can consider the following future steps:



By taking these future steps, Baku State University can further its commitment to sustainable water management, minimize its environmental impact, and contribute to the achievement of SDG 6 while setting an example for the wider community and the education sector.