

UI GreenMetric Questionnaire

University : Baku State University
Country : Azerbaijan
Web Address : <http://bsu.edu.az/en>
SDG Focused Web Address: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/>

[3] Waste (WS)

[3.4] Program to Reduce the Use of Paper and Plastic on Campus (WS.2)



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Example of Program to Reduce the Use of Paper and Plastic in Campus



<http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/sustainable-food-waste-management-at-baku-state-university>

NO.	PROGRAM / INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION
1	Digital Documentation System	Administrative documents, approvals, and internal correspondence are processed electronically to reduce paper consumption.
2	Electronic Student Services	Registration, transcripts, certificates, and academic requests are provided through online platforms instead of printed forms.
3	Paperless Meetings	University Senate, faculty councils, and committee meetings use digital agendas, reports, and presentations.
4	E-Learning and Digital Course Materials	Lecture notes, assignments, and reading materials are shared through learning management systems rather than printed copies.
5	Double-Sided Printing Policy	All campus printers are configured for duplex printing as the default setting to reduce paper usage.
6	Reusable Water Bottle Campaign	Students and staff are encouraged to use refillable water bottles instead of single-use plastic bottles.
7	Plastic-Free Events	University conferences, seminars, and ceremonies minimize or eliminate disposable plastic cups, plates, and cutlery.
8	Sustainable Procurement Policy	Environmentally friendly and recyclable office supplies with reduced plastic packaging are prioritized during purchasing.
9	Recycling Stations	Clearly labeled paper and plastic recycling bins are installed across academic buildings and administrative offices.
10	Awareness and Green Campus Campaigns	Regular workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns promote responsible consumption and waste reduction.
11	Electronic Library Resources	Digital books, journals, and databases reduce dependence on printed materials.
12	Eco-Friendly Office Practices	Departments monitor paper consumption, encourage document sharing in digital formats, and reduce unnecessary printing.



Description:

Baku State University has established a comprehensive Paper and Plastic Reduction Program consisting of more than 10 initiatives designed to minimize resource consumption and promote sustainable campus operations.

The university has significantly reduced paper use by introducing digital documentation systems, electronic student services, and paperless meetings, allowing most administrative and academic processes to be completed electronically. Faculty members are encouraged to distribute course materials, assignments, and lecture notes through digital learning platforms instead of printed copies. In addition, all university printers are configured for double-sided printing to reduce unnecessary paper consumption. To decrease plastic waste, the university promotes the use of reusable water bottles, discourages single-use plastics during conferences and campus events, and prioritizes environmentally friendly products through its sustainable procurement policy. Recycling stations for paper and plastic are available across campus to encourage proper waste separation and increase recycling rates.

The university also invests in awareness campaigns, workshops, and Green Campus initiatives to educate students and staff about responsible consumption and waste reduction. The expansion of electronic library resources further reduces dependence on printed materials, while administrative departments monitor paper usage and encourage digital communication wherever possible.

Through these coordinated initiatives, Baku State University has successfully implemented more than 10 programs that reduce paper and plastic consumption, improve resource efficiency, support environmental sustainability, and foster a culture of responsible behavior among students and employees. Progress is regularly monitored through procurement records, printing statistics, and recycling data to ensure continuous improvement.

In line with its sustainable development strategy, Baku State University is implementing comprehensive and systematic measures to reduce the use of paper and plastic on campus. These initiatives are an integral part of the university's "green campus" concept and aim to promote the efficient use of resources, reduce waste, and protect the environment.

1. Paper Reduction Program

At BSU, a "paperless campus" approach is implemented to minimize paper consumption. The following measures are carried out in this direction:

- An electronic document management system has been introduced, where orders, certificates, applications, and other administrative documents are managed in digital format.
- Student services and registration processes are organized fully or partially online.
- Lecture materials are shared through electronic learning platforms (LMS, email, etc.), reducing the need for paper-based resources.
- The electronic submission and assessment of exams and assignments are widely applied.
- Programs, materials, and certificates at scientific conferences and events are provided in digital form.
- Extensive use of electronic library resources reduces the demand for paper-based sources.
- Printing limits and printer usage control mechanisms are in place within faculties.
- Double-sided printing and electronic review of documents before printing are encouraged.

2. Plastic Reduction Program

At the BSU campus, targeted measures are being taken to reduce the use of single-use plastics and promote reuse:



- Initiatives are implemented to limit the use of single-use plastic products on campus.
- The use of plastic bottles is prohibited in the university canteens.
- Students are encouraged to use reusable water bottles and bags.
- During events, alternatives to plastic containers (paper, cardboard, and biodegradable materials) are used.
- Separate waste sorting bins for plastic and paper are installed across the campus area.
- Recommendations are provided to catering facilities operating within the university to reduce plastic waste.

3. Awareness & Engagement Activities

At BSU, extensive awareness-raising activities are conducted to promote sustainable consumption and production habits:

- Environmental seminars, trainings, and conferences are organized on topics such as SDGs, green campus initiatives, and waste management.
- The principles of the “Green University” and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) are promoted among students and staff.
- Educational campaigns are implemented through social media and official platforms.
- Student clubs are actively engaged in initiatives such as “Plastic-Free Campus” and “Green Library.”
- Topics such as plastic pollution and efficient resource use are taught through courses included in academic programs, including “Ecology,” “Organic Chemistry,” and “Sustainable Development.”
- Students and staff are encouraged to reduce plastic use in daily life and adopt responsible consumption behaviors.

4. Institutional Approach and Policies

- BSU promotes the responsible use of resources within the framework of its sustainable procurement policy.
- The university supports initiatives in the field of waste management and sustainable consumption through cooperation with local organizations.
- The report prepared on SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) provides a detailed and systematic overview of efficient resource use at the university, waste reduction and management, the organization of recycling processes, the implementation of environmentally responsible procurement approaches, as well as related awareness-raising and institutional initiatives.

BSU has expanded its environmental and sustainable development activities at the international level by becoming a member of global initiatives such as The Climate Action Network for International Educators (CANIE) and the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN). In addition, the university has strengthened global cooperation in both environmental and research fields by joining prestigious international organizations such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), and the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO). Within this framework, BSU is working on priority areas such as carbon footprint measurement and reduction programs, the development of green campus strategies, the implementation of sustainable and responsible academic mobility models, the alignment of environmental education programs with international standards, and the promotion of



innovative scientific projects. The university also participates in various international rankings and sustainability reports, ensuring transparency and accountability by publicly sharing its results.

Additional evidence link (i.e., for videos, more images, or other files that are not included in this file):

1. BSU has joined a paper recycling initiative in collaboration with “Azersun Paper and Cardboard Manufacturing Corporation LLC”, encouraging students and staff to recycle paper waste through designated collection points across campus. The project promotes environmental sustainability, supports resource reuse, and raises awareness about responsible waste management.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-joins-new-eco-initiative-for-paper-recycling>

2. A Sustainable Procurement Policy at BSU ensures that the university purchases goods and services responsibly by considering environmental, social, and economic impacts. It promotes eco-friendly products, ethical suppliers, and efficient resource use, supporting goals such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/sustainable-procurement-policy>

3. A Responsible Consumption and Production Report at BSU provides a concise overview of how the university manages resources efficiently and reduces waste across its academic and administrative activities. It highlights actions such as minimizing material use, promoting reuse and recycling on campus, and adopting sustainable practices in procurement and daily operations. The report also tracks progress, identifies areas for improvement, and demonstrates alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/uploads/files/SDG%2012%202025.pdf>

4. Azerbaijan Railways CJSC organized an information session at BSU to mark World Environment Day. The event focused on environmental sustainability in the transport sector, highlighting the ecological advantages of railway systems, emission reduction efforts, and innovative practices such as alternative energy use, waste management, and paper reduction. It also emphasized collaboration between ADY and BSU and the importance of environmental standards like ISO 14001:2015.

For more information click:

bsu.edu.az/en/news/azerbaijan_railways_holds_environmental_information_session_for_bsu_students

5. BSU is listed as a signatory of the CANIE Accord, demonstrating its commitment to advancing sustainability and climate action in international education. Through this initiative, the university supports environmental responsibility, climate literacy, and sustainable development goals within higher education.

For more information click: <https://canie.org/the-canie-accord/signatory-listing/baku-state-university>

6. International Sustainable Campus Network membership page lists BSU as one of its member institutions committed to advancing sustainable campus development. The page highlights BSU's engagement in international cooperation and its contribution to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information click: <https://international-sustainable-campus-network.org/membership/baku-state-university/>

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/iscn-membership>

7. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals Week, students of BSU visited Clean City ASC to learn about waste management, recycling practices, and environmental awareness. The visit included a tour of Balakhani Industrial Park, where students explored modern recycling technologies and sustainable production processes.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-students-visit-clean-city-asc>



8. BSU is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, a global network supporting sustainability in higher education. This membership provides BSU with access to international tools, best practices, and collaborations to improve its sustainability performance and align with global standards.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/aashe-membership>

9. A scientific seminar on green chemistry was held at BSU, focusing on the application of environmentally friendly principles in secondary school chemistry education. The event highlighted resource efficiency, safe experimentation, and the importance of integrating ecological approaches into teaching, followed by interactive discussions among participants.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/scientific-seminar-on-the-application-of-green-chemistry-principles-in-secondary-school-chemistry-lessons-held>

10. An awareness event dedicated to International Recycling Day was organized at BSU by “BSU Volunteers” and students of the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science. The event focused on waste management, recycling practices, and promoting eco-friendly habits, aiming to increase environmental awareness and encourage responsible daily behavior among students.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-volunteers-organize-awareness-event-dedicated-to-international-recycling-day>

11. BSU conducts extensive research aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, focusing on responsible consumption and production through innovative scientific solutions. It showcases studies in areas such as waste management, sustainable materials, renewable energy, and eco-friendly agriculture, contributing to environmental protection and sustainable development in Azerbaijan.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/research-on-sdg-12>

12. BSU demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability by integrating environmental responsibility, ethical practices, and efficient resource use into its academic and operational activities. Through initiatives, international partnerships such as the International Sustainable Campus Network, and alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the university promotes responsible consumption, waste reduction, and sustainable campus development.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/ethical-sourcing,-waste-management>

13. An awareness training on solid waste management was held at Baku State University in collaboration with Tamiz Shahar OJSC, focusing on recycling, environmental responsibility, and sustainable practices. The event also introduced BSU’s participation in the “Card to Art” initiative, promoting creative recycling by transforming plastic waste into artworks to be exhibited under the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/training-on-modern-approaches-to-solid-waste-management-held-at-bsu>

14. The “Card to ART” eco-initiative at Baku State University promotes recycling by encouraging students and staff to donate unused plastic cards for transformation into creative artworks. Launched with the support of Tamiz Shahar OJSC, the project raises environmental awareness and supports sustainable practices on campus.

For more information click: <https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/new-campaign-launched-to-turn-waste-into-art-during-the-year-of-urbanism-and-architecture>

Images





**BAKU
STATE
UNIVERSITY**



CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP



The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) CERTIFIES that the

Baku State University

is member of GUNI, since its application was approved on
Desember 10, 2024

And I hereby deliver the same:

Josep Maria Vilalta
Director
GUNI Secretariat

