BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY

UI GreenMetric Sustainable University Rankings

UI GreenMetric Questionnaire

University : Baku State University
Country : Azerbaijan
Web Address :https://bdu.info.az/en
SDG Focused Web Adress: https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/

[5] Transportation (TR)

[5.14] Program to limit or decrease the parking area on campus for the last 3 years (TR.6)

Designated and controlled parking areas at Baku State University

Bicycle and micromobility infrastructure at the main entrance of BSU

Centralized university bus system supporting shared transportation (ride-sharing) and reducing private vehicle use on campus

Before

After

Description:

Over the past three years, Baku State University (BSU) has implemented a structured, policy-driven program aimed at reducing reliance on private vehicle infrastructure and optimizing land use in support of sustainable campus development. The program prioritizes the gradual reduction of parking capacity while actively promoting low-carbon and shared mobility alternatives.

Key Objectives

- Reduce the spatial footprint allocated to parking infrastructure
- Promote a modal shift toward public transport, cycling, walking, and zero-emission mobility
- Reallocate freed land for green spaces, pedestrian zones, and academic/social facilities
- Align campus development with climate neutrality and sustainable transport principles

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Core Measures Implemented

1. Parking Area Reduction and Optimization

BSU has progressively limited parking availability, particularly for students, through controlled access policies and designated parking zones. Selected parking areas have been partially repurposed into functional and green spaces. A key example is the development of a “Student Space”, which replaced previously underutilized parking areas and improved both environmental and social campus quality.

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2. Development of Sustainable Mobility Alternatives

To support reduced parking capacity, BSU has expanded sustainable mobility infrastructure. Bicycle and micromobility lanes have been introduced at the main campus entrance, alongside dedicated bicycle parking facilities. These developments encourage the use of bicycles and electric scooters as viable commuting options.

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3. Shared and Organized Transportation System

The university operates a centralized transport system consisting of approximately 50 buses, operating regularly five days per week. This system supports student internships, academic activities, and official university events, significantly reducing reliance on private vehicle use and promoting shared transportation practices.

In addition, informal ride-sharing practices are encouraged among students, academic staff, and administrative personnel, particularly for academic travel and university-related activities.

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4. Awareness and Institutional Collaboration

BSU actively promotes sustainable transport behavior through awareness campaigns, seminars, and cooperation with national transport authorities. These initiatives aim to strengthen

environmental responsibility and encourage sustainable commuting choices among the university community.

Implementation Timeline

- 2024: Assessment of parking demand and campus mobility patterns
- 2025: Reduction and repurposing of selected parking areas
- 2026: Continued expansion of sustainable transport infrastructure and monitoring of mobility trends

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Results Achieved (Last Three Years)

- The total parking area has been reduced by more than 30%, meeting the target threshold for significant reduction.
- Parking capacity in selected zones has reached its planned limit, with no further expansion permitted under current sustainability policy.
- Increased adoption of alternative mobility options, supported by improved infrastructure and behavioral change initiatives.
- Noticeable reduction in private vehicle dependency and improved land-use efficiency across campus.

Overall Impact

The program has significantly transformed campus land-use priorities, shifting from car-oriented infrastructure toward a more sustainable, human-centered campus model. Key outcomes include:

- Expansion of green and open spaces
- Improved walkability and environmental quality of the campus
- Reduced traffic congestion within campus boundaries
- Lower carbon emissions associated with commuting
- Strengthened alignment with long-term sustainability and climate action goals

Year	Key Actions	Parking Area Change	Policy Instruments	Key Outcomes
2024	Assessment of parking demand and mobility patterns; identification of overutilized parking zones	Baseline established; initial optimization initiated	Parking regulation review; controlled access introduction	Data-driven foundation for parking reduction strategy established
2025	Reduction and partial decommissioning of selected parking areas; repurposing	Reduction initiated (~15–20% cumulative estimate)	Parking caps; restricted student parking zones; land-use reallocation policy	Improved land-use efficiency; first visible

	into functional and green spaces (e.g., Student Space)			conversion of parking areas
2026	Expansion of sustainable mobility infrastructure; enforcement of parking limits; expansion of alternative transport systems	**>30% total reduction achieved over 3 years**	Strict parking control policy; zero-expansion rule for parking infrastructure	Parking reduction target achieved; modal shift strengthened
Overall (3-Year Result)	Integrated mobility transformation program combining infrastructure, policy, and behavioral change	**More than 30% reduction in total parking area**	Institutional sustainability and transport policy integration	Reduced car dependency, increased green space, improved campus sustainability

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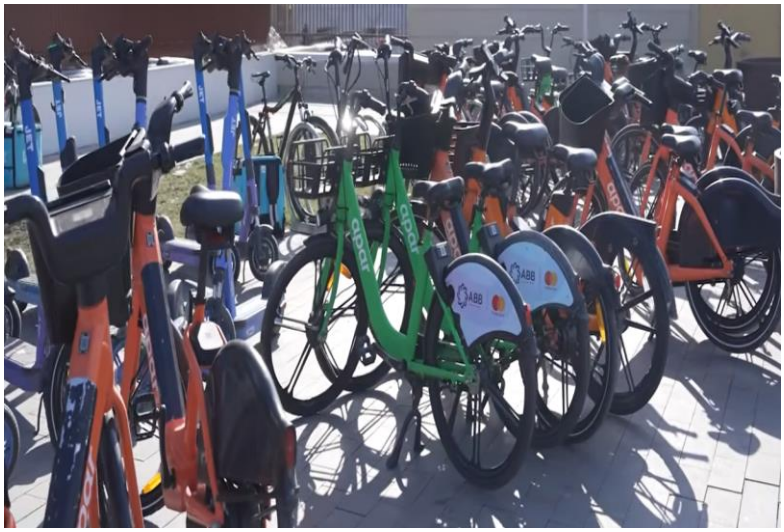

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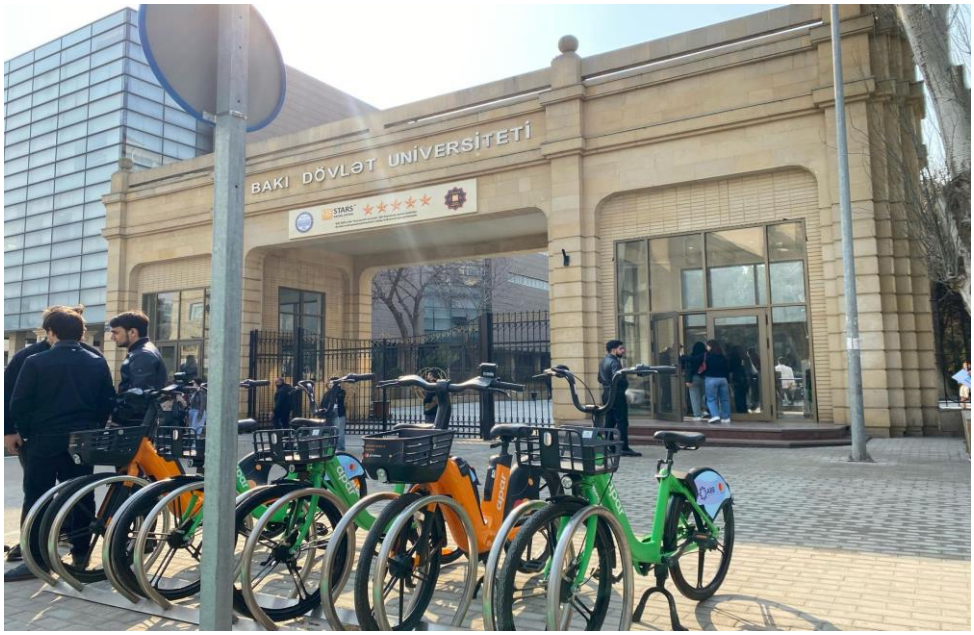

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Additional evidence link (i.e., for videos, more images, or other files that are not included in this file):

Baku State University, in cooperation with Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation, inaugurated a new “Student Space” on campus to support student social life, collaboration, and personal development.

The space was designed in line with modern sustainability and green technology approaches. Its infrastructure includes solar-powered lighting systems and a 24/7 mini-library accessible to students for reading, book exchange, and academic engagement. The area also serves as a platform for discussions, networking, and student-led initiatives involving participants from different higher education institutions.

The project contributes to creating a more inclusive, environmentally conscious, and student-centered campus environment while encouraging social interaction and sustainable campus practices.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/opening-of-the-student-space-at-bsu**

Baku State University has inaugurated a new “Student Space” designed to provide students with a comfortable environment for social interaction, collaborative activities, discussions, and productive leisure time on campus.

The area was developed with a modern and student-oriented approach, contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable campus environment. The project also supports improved campus accessibility and encourages students to spend more time within shared university spaces rather than relying on external transportation for social and academic interaction.

In addition, the integration of green technologies within the space, including energy-efficient infrastructure, reflects the university’s broader commitment to environmentally responsible campus development and sustainable mobility principles.

For more details please see:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN5lNd6yo6A

Field training has commenced for students of the Faculties of Geography, Ecology, and Soil Science at Baku State University. More than 200 students, accompanied by faculty members and supervisors, traveled by organized bus transport to the university's Quba Education and Recreation Center for practical academic training.

The program combines field-based learning with expert lectures, including sessions delivered by Professor Hashem Elkassas from Ain Shams University. The initiative supports experiential education in environmental and geographical sciences while promoting coordinated group mobility for academic activities outside the main campus.

For more details please see:

- http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/field-training-at-bsus-guba-education-and-recreation-center-has-begun

Students of the Faculty of History at Baku State University completed a production internship program held at several historical and archaeological sites, including Gobustan National Historical-Artistic Reserve, the Quba Genocide Memorial Complex, the S. A. Shirvani Shamakhi Museum of History and Local Lore, and the Gabala Archaeological Center.

The internship involved more than 230 students from History and History Teaching programs under the supervision of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography. Through field-based learning and organized educational travel, students gained practical knowledge of Azerbaijan's historical, ethnographic, and archaeological heritage.

For more details please see:

- http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/history-faculty-students-complete-internship-program

Baku State University, in partnership with KOBİA, inaugurated an EcoEnergy Station on campus that enables electric vehicle charging through renewable energy sources, including solar and wind power.

The project was implemented within the framework of innovation and sustainability initiatives and is intended to support environmentally friendly energy use, reduce carbon emissions, and encourage cleaner mobility solutions within the university environment. The station also serves educational purposes by being integrated into academic and research activities.

With a capacity of 22 kWh, the facility contributes to expanding low-emission transport infrastructure on campus while promoting awareness of renewable energy technologies and sustainable transportation practices among students and staff.

For more details please see:

- http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-and-kobia-open-ecoenergy-station-on-campus

A scientific seminar on the prospects of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Azerbaijan was held at the Faculty of Biology of Baku State University. The seminar addressed major environmental challenges such as carbon emissions, pollution, and global warming, while emphasizing the importance of renewable energy, environmental awareness, and the transition toward a green economy.

The discussions also highlighted Azerbaijan's role in global climate initiatives, particularly in connection with hosting COP29 and the country's growing focus on sustainable development and green energy potential.

The event contributed to strengthening climate awareness and encouraging academic participation in environmental research, sustainability initiatives, and low-carbon development approaches.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/scientific-seminar-at-bsu-on-climate-change**

A scientific seminar on the "Carbon Credit Market and Potential Opportunities" was organized at Baku State University to discuss climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and emerging carbon reduction mechanisms. The seminar highlighted the growing importance of carbon credit systems, renewable energy transition, and international climate initiatives in supporting sustainable economic development.

Speakers presented international experiences related to carbon markets and emphasized the role of scientific institutions in developing low-carbon solutions and supporting environmental innovation. Discussions also focused on new opportunities for Azerbaijan following COP29, including carbon regulation, green technologies, and cooperation between academia, industry, and government.

The event contributed to raising awareness about sustainable development practices and the importance of reducing emissions through research, innovation, and environmentally responsible policies.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/scientific-seminar-at-bsu-carbon-credit-market-and-potential-opportunities**

Dedicated lanes for bicycles and small electric vehicles have been introduced at the main entrance of Baku State University to support safer and more efficient campus mobility. The initiative promotes the use of bicycles and electric scooters as convenient alternatives for short-distance travel within the urban environment.

The project aligns with national transport development efforts and aims to reduce traffic congestion, decrease reliance on private cars, and improve overall urban mobility efficiency. It also includes the installation of secure bicycle parking facilities to support active and sustainable transport options.

Overall, the initiative contributes to improving campus accessibility and encouraging environmentally friendly mobility practices within the university setting.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/dedicated-lanes-for-bicycles-and-small-electric-vehicles-at-the-main-entrance-of-bsu**

A scientific seminar was held at the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science of Baku State University, where research results on active biomonitoring of atmospheric air in Baku and the Absheron Peninsula were presented.

The study assessed air quality affected by industrial and transport activities using moss-based biomonitoring methods, with samples collected from multiple monitoring sites and analyzed

through advanced laboratory techniques. The results identified the presence of various heavy metals and pollutants in certain areas, indicating localized environmental pressure.

The research provides a scientific overview of air pollution patterns in the region and supports the development of more effective environmental monitoring and assessment approaches for future applications.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-presents-results-of-active-biomonitoring-of-atmospheric-air-in-baku-and-absheron**

Field training was conducted for fourth-year students of the Ecology, Soil Science and Agrochemistry, and Land Management and Real Estate Cadastre programs at Baku State University in the Shamakhi and Gobustan regions.

During the program, students studied soil-landscape systems, agricultural practices, and environmental conditions across different geographic zones. Practical work included soil pit excavations in mountain forest-brown soils in Pirgulu and field investigations at the Gobustan Regional Experimental Station.

Students also carried out environmental measurements such as air quality indicators (ozone and ammonia), noise levels, soil and water pH, and radiation monitoring using portable devices. The training strengthened their applied understanding of environmental assessment and landscape analysis in real field conditions.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-faculty-of-ecology-and-soil-science-students-conduct-field-training-in-shamakhi-and-gobustan**

Baku State University organized field training programs for final-year students of the Faculties of Geography, Ecology and Soil Science, and Biology across several regions, including Quba, Shamakhi, Gabala, and Lankaran.

During these activities, students engaged in practical observation of regional physical-geographical and socio-economic characteristics, including landscape structures, water resources, soil, vegetation cover, and local environmental conditions. The program also included study visits to culturally and historically significant sites for History students.

These field-based academic activities support experiential learning and require organized intercity travel, contributing indirectly to student mobility patterns associated with educational fieldwork logistics.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/field-training-programs-commence-at-bsu**

Field practice was organized for Biology students at Baku State University across several ecological regions, including Lankaran, Guba, and Shamakhi.

During the program, students conducted field-based observations of biodiversity in protected areas and natural ecosystems such as national parks, forest-meadow zones, and river landscapes. Activities included species identification, vegetation analysis, and collection of biological samples for further laboratory study.

The training also involved structured field routes and site visits requiring interregional travel, supporting hands-on environmental education and experiential learning in natural habitat settings.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-biology-faculty-students-participate-in-field-practice-in-lankaran,-guba,-and-shamakhi**

Within the SDG-related activities presented by Baku State University, several initiatives are indirectly linked to sustainable transport and urban mobility. These efforts mainly focus on improving campus movement efficiency and encouraging low-emission mobility practices.

The university promotes the use of alternative and more sustainable mobility options within the campus environment, aiming to make daily movement of students and staff more efficient and environmentally friendly. This approach contributes to reducing reliance on conventional transport and supports a shift toward cleaner mobility behaviors.

Overall, these initiatives align with broader principles of sustainable urban mobility by encouraging more efficient movement patterns and supporting environmentally responsible transport solutions within the university setting.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/allnews**

Based on the “University Policies” framework of Baku State University, transport-related aspects are addressed indirectly through broader sustainability and environmental governance policies.

In particular, policies such as the Climate Action Policy, Sustainable Procurement Policy, and Sustainability and Biodiversity Policy support the reduction of carbon emissions and the improvement of resource efficiency across university operations. These frameworks encourage environmentally responsible practices in campus management, including energy-efficient systems and low-carbon operational approaches.

Although the policies do not directly regulate transport systems, they contribute to promoting a more sustainable mobility environment by prioritizing emission reduction, efficient resource use, and environmentally conscious infrastructure development.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/university-policies**

From the SDG-related content of Baku State University, only a limited number of elements are directly relevant to the GreenMetric Transport category, while most activities relate to broader sustainability governance and SDG implementation.

The most relevant transport-related initiative is the EcoEnergy Station, which supports the use of electric vehicles by providing renewable-energy-based charging infrastructure on campus. This contributes to promoting low-emission mobility and encouraging the adoption of cleaner transport alternatives.

In addition, several sustainability and urban development initiatives indirectly support transport sustainability by promoting energy efficiency, low-carbon infrastructure, and environmentally responsible campus operations. These actions contribute to a gradual shift toward more sustainable mobility practices, although they are not directly transport-focused.

Overall, BSU’s contribution to the transport dimension is mainly indirect, with emphasis on electric mobility support and sustainability-driven infrastructure development rather than a fully developed transport system.

For more details please see:

- http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/bsu%60s-commitment-to-sdgs

Baku State University (BSU), together with academic departments and the “EkoSfera” Ecological-Social Center, organized an interactive training on green energy transition, climate action, and COP29 awareness for students.
The event promoted sustainability education, renewable energy awareness, and youth engagement in climate-related initiatives, while encouraging environmentally responsible practices and green innovation.

For more details please see:

- https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/training-at-bsu-the-role-of-youth-in-the-transition-to-green-energy

BSU’s Climate Action Plan (2023–2030) contributes indirectly to the GreenMetric transport dimension through its overall decarbonisation strategy. The university’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2030 includes reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, which are closely linked to transport-related energy use and fuel consumption.

By improving energy efficiency, promoting low-carbon practices, and encouraging sustainability awareness among students and staff, BSU supports a gradual shift toward more environmentally responsible mobility behaviour on campus.

In addition, alignment with national climate goals and international sustainability networks strengthens the institutional basis for future development of low-emission and renewable-energy-based transport solutions.

For more details please see:

- http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/climate-action-plan-action

Baku State University students participated in an interactive field training program at Altiaghac National Park in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. The training included biodiversity observation, bird monitoring, GIS applications, carbon measurement, and environmental protection practices.

The initiative supports sustainable educational mobility by organizing field-based environmental learning activities through coordinated student travel to protected natural areas.

For more details please see:

- https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/training-for-bsu-students-at-altiaghac-national-park

BSU’s SDG 13 activities support the GreenMetric transport dimension mainly through emission reduction efforts and climate awareness. The university’s GHG reduction targets and climate education programs encourage more low-carbon behaviour, including reduced reliance on private transport and more sustainable mobility choices.

International projects and cooperation with national institutions further strengthen BSU’s capacity to support future sustainable transport and emission reduction planning.
Overall, the focus is indirect but relevant through carbon reduction, awareness, and behavioural change linked to mobility.

For more details please see:

- http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/report-on-sdg-13-climate-action

At BSU, within the framework of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), strengthened collaboration and shared research infrastructure among higher education and scientific institutions promote the joint use of resources. This approach helps reduce unnecessary inter-institutional travel and repetitive academic mobility, while fostering a more coordinated and efficient research environment. Indirectly, these practices contribute to lowering transport demand and support the development of more sustainable academic mobility patterns.

For more details please see:

- **http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/report-on-sdg-17-partnership-for-the-goals**

1. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-and-kobia-open-ecoenergy-station-on-campus
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz3j8mRqjjE
3. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-and-kobia-open-ecoenergy-station-on-campus
4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz3j8mRqjjE
5. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/scientific-seminar-at-bsu-on-climate-change
6. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/scientific-seminar-at-bsu-carbon-credit-market-and-potential-opportunities
7. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/dedicated-lanes-for-bicycles-and-small-electric-vehicles-at-the-main-entrance-of-bsu
8. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-presents-results-of-active-biomonitoring-of-atmospheric-air-in-baku-and-absheron
9. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/field-training-at-bsus-guba-education-and-recreation-center-has-begun
10. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-faculty-of-ecology-and-soil-science-students-conduct-field-training-in-shamakhi-and-gobustan
11. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/field-training-programs-commence-at-bsu
12. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/history-faculty-students-complete-internship-program
13. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-biology-faculty-students-participate-in-field-practice-in-lankaran,-guba,-and-shamakhi
14. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/allnews
15. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/university-policies
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17. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/
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19. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/report-on-sdg-13-climate-action
20. http://sdg.bsu.edu.az/report-on-sdg-17-partnership-for-the-goals