



Baku State University

Ethical Sourcing, Waste Management, and Sustainable Use

POLICY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**





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Introduction

Baku State University (BSU), as one of Azerbaijan’s leading higher education institutions, is deeply committed to advancing environmental responsibility, ethical conduct, and sustainable development across all areas of its academic and operational activities. Recognizing its role as both an educator and a community leader, BSU seeks to ensure that the university’s daily practices—ranging from procurement and food sourcing to waste management and resource use—reflect the principles of sustainability and social accountability.

In recent years, BSU has undertaken a series of practical initiatives that demonstrate its growing commitment to a greener and more responsible campus environment. The establishment of the EcoEnergy renewable energy station through a grant from the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA), and the creation of an innovative Eco Space for research in green technologies, highlight BSU’s dedication to reducing its environmental footprint and fostering a culture of sustainability. The university’s food waste monitoring system in student canteens, “Give a New Life to an Old Battery” hazardous waste initiative, and participation in the “Plastic-Free July” campaign have further reinforced its active role in promoting responsible consumption and waste reduction.

As a proud member of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), BSU aligns its sustainability practices with global higher education standards and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Through its participation in international and local partnerships, BSU has positioned itself as a driving force in embedding sustainability principles into the university’s culture, governance, and operations.

Ethical Sourcing, Waste Management, and Sustainable Use Policy serves to consolidate these efforts and provide a comprehensive institutional framework for ethical sourcing, waste disposal, and responsible resource use. It establishes clear commitments to:

- Source goods and services through fair, transparent, and environmentally responsible processes;
- Manage and reduce waste generation, including hazardous materials;
- Minimise reliance on plastic and disposable products; and



- Extend sustainability standards to all outsourced services and suppliers.

This policy not only formalizes BSU's current good practices but also sets measurable goals for continuous improvement. It ensures that every procurement decision, supplier relationship, and operational process contributes to a sustainable, ethical, and resource-efficient university community.



Ethical Sourcing

Ethical Sourcing refers to the procurement of goods and services through processes that ensure environmental responsibility, social fairness, and economic integrity throughout the entire supply chain lifecycle. It requires that suppliers operate in accordance with fair labor standards, provide safe and healthy working conditions, respect human rights, prohibit child and forced labor, and comply with all applicable national legislation and international conventions.

Ethical sourcing further encompasses environmentally sustainable production methods, including responsible use of natural resources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, minimization of waste and pollution, and avoidance of harmful or hazardous materials. It promotes the selection of locally produced, seasonal, certified, or eco-labeled products where feasible, thereby reducing transportation-related carbon footprints and supporting local economies.

The concept also emphasizes transparency, traceability, and accountability in procurement practices. Institutions implementing ethical sourcing are expected to conduct due diligence, assess supplier performance against sustainability criteria, include ethical clauses in contracts, and engage in continuous monitoring and improvement of supply chain practices.

Ultimately, ethical sourcing ensures that purchasing decisions not only meet quality and cost requirements but also contribute positively to environmental protection, social equity, responsible governance, and long-term sustainable development.



Waste Management

Waste Management refers to the comprehensive and systematic approach to preventing, minimizing, collecting, segregating, transporting, recycling, treating, and safely disposing of waste generated through university academic, research, administrative, and operational activities. It encompasses the full lifecycle of waste — from source reduction and responsible consumption to final treatment and disposal — in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

Waste management includes the proper handling of all waste streams, including general solid waste, recyclable materials, organic and food waste, electronic waste, laboratory and chemical waste, medical or biological waste, and other hazardous materials. Each category requires appropriate segregation, storage, and disposal procedures in compliance with environmental legislation, occupational health and safety standards, and recognized international guidelines.

An effective waste management system prioritizes waste prevention and reduction at source, promotes reuse and recycling practices, and supports composting and resource recovery initiatives. It seeks to minimize reliance on landfills and incineration, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to circular economy principles where materials are retained within productive use for as long as possible.

Furthermore, waste management involves monitoring and reporting mechanisms, staff and student awareness programs, clear institutional responsibilities, and continuous performance improvement measures.

Sustainable Use

Sustainable Use is a comprehensive institutional framework that regulates and promotes the responsible, efficient, and environmentally conscious use of natural resources, materials, energy, water, and consumables across all university operations. It establishes guiding principles and practical measures to ensure that



resource consumption is minimized, optimized, and aligned with environmental protection and long-term sustainability objectives.

This policy prioritizes the prevention of resource waste at its source, reduction of single-use and disposable items, and transitions toward reusable, recyclable, and environmentally preferable alternatives. It supports the adoption of renewable energy solutions, energy-efficient technologies, water conservation systems, and sustainable infrastructure design to reduce the institution's ecological footprint.

The Sustainable Use Policy also integrates sustainability considerations into procurement, campus planning, facility management, research activities, and event organization. It encourages digitalization to reduce paper consumption, responsible laboratory and office practices, and sustainable food and material sourcing.

Furthermore, the policy promotes behavioral change through awareness programs, training, and student engagement initiatives that foster a culture of environmental responsibility within the university community. Monitoring, reporting, and periodic review mechanisms ensure measurable progress and continuous improvement.

Ultimately, the Sustainable Use Policy ensures that institutional growth and development occur within ecological limits, supporting climate action, resource efficiency, and the broader goals of sustainable development for present and future generations.

Scope

Scope of the Ethical Sourcing, Waste Management, and Sustainable Use Policy

This Policy applies to all academic, administrative, research, and operational activities conducted under the authority of Baku State University. It establishes sustainability and ethical standards that govern procurement processes, resource use, waste management practices, and supplier relationships across the entire institution.

The Policy covers all faculties, departments, research centers, laboratories, administrative offices, and campus facilities, including dining halls, student



residences, and event spaces. It applies to all university personnel, including academic staff, administrative employees, researchers, laboratory technicians, and students, ensuring that every member of the university community actively contributes to sustainability and responsible practices.

In addition, the Policy extends to external partners, contractors, suppliers, and service providers engaged by the university, requiring them to adhere to the same environmental, ethical, and social responsibility standards. It governs all operational areas such as procurement of goods and services, food sourcing, energy and water use, waste prevention, segregation, recycling, hazardous material management, and the reduction of disposable items and single-use plastics.

The Policy also applies to university-organized events, construction and renovation projects, and any activities conducted on or off campus where BSU maintains operational or financial responsibility. By defining clear expectations and standards, this Policy ensures that all activities support environmental protection, social responsibility, sustainable development, and the long-term well-being of the university community and the wider society.

Institutional Coverage

The Policy applies to:

- All faculties, departments, research centers, laboratories, and administrative units.
- University-managed dining facilities, catering services, and campus retail operations.
- Campus infrastructure includes classrooms, offices, dormitories, and common areas.
- University-organized events, conferences, and extracurricular activities.
- Construction, renovation, and facility management projects.

Personnel and Stakeholders

- The Policy is binding for:
 - Academic and administrative staff.
 - Researchers and laboratory personnel.
 - Students and student organizations.



- Contractors, suppliers, vendors, and outsourced service providers (including catering, cleaning, maintenance, and construction services);
- External partners operating within university premises.

All stakeholders are expected to comply with the environmental, ethical, and sustainability principles outlined in this Policy.

Operational Areas Covered

The Policy governs:

- Procurement of goods, services, food, equipment, and materials.
- Ethical evaluation and monitoring of suppliers.
- Waste prevention, segregation, recycling, treatment, and disposal (including hazardous waste);
- Resource efficiency in energy, water, materials, and consumables.
- Reduction of plastic and single use products.
- Sustainable supply chain management.
- Monitoring, reporting, and performance evaluation mechanisms.

Geographic and Functional Scope

The Policy applies to all university-owned, leased, or managed facilities and activities conducted both on, and off campus where BSU exercises operational control or financial responsibility.

Alignment and Compliance

This Policy operates in alignment with:

- National environmental and labor legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- International environmental and occupational safety standards.
- Sustainability commitments consistent with global frameworks and responsible campus initiatives.



Accessible Facilities

Baku State University is committed to ensuring that all campus facilities, services, and sustainability initiatives are accessible to every member of the university community, including students, staff, and visitors with disabilities or special needs. Accessibility is a core principle of sustainable and ethical campus management, ensuring that environmental responsibility does not exclude any individual from participation.

Physical Accessibility

- All waste disposal and recycling points, including organic, recyclable, and hazardous waste stations, are designed to be accessible to people with physical disabilities.
- Renewable energy installations, such as the Eco Energy station and Eco Space facilities, include accessible pathways, ramps, and signage to ensure safe and independent use by all individuals.
- Campus facilities involved in sustainability activities, including laboratories, gardens, and composting areas, are adapted to provide access for mobility devices and assistive technologies.

Inclusive Participation

- Students and staff with disabilities are encouraged to participate in sustainability programs, workshops, and initiatives, including waste management campaigns, recycling drives, and eco-awareness events.
- Training and guidance materials related to ethical sourcing, sustainable use, and waste management are provided in accessible formats, including large print, digital copies, and screen-reader compatible versions.
- Signage, instructions, and informational displays in sustainability zones are designed to be clear, visible, and inclusive of individuals with visual or cognitive impairments.

Support Services

- Staff and volunteers are trained to provide assistance where necessary, ensuring that all community members can engage safely in campus sustainability activities.



- Accessibility audits are conducted periodically to identify and address barriers in waste management stations, Eco Space facilities, and other sustainability-related infrastructure.
- Continuous improvements are implemented based on feedback from students, staff, and accessibility experts to enhance the inclusiveness of campus operations.

Integration with Policy Goals

Ensuring accessible facilities is aligned with BSU's overarching commitment to social responsibility, ethical conduct, and sustainable development. By integrating accessibility into all aspects of procurement, resource management, and waste disposal, the University promotes equity, inclusivity, and universal participation in its sustainability initiatives.





Admission and education support

Baku State University is committed to integrating sustainability, ethical practices, and accessibility into its admission processes and educational support programs. University ensures that all students, regardless of background, abilities, or special needs, have equitable access to academic opportunities and sustainability-related learning experiences.

1. Admission Support

- ❖ Admission procedures are designed to be inclusive, fair, and transparent, ensuring that students with disabilities or from underrepresented groups can apply and enroll without barriers.
- ❖ Application materials and guidelines are provided in accessible formats, including digital, large-print, and screen-reader compatible versions.
- ❖ Prospective students are informed about the University's sustainability programs, ethical sourcing initiatives, and environmentally responsible campus practices to encourage early engagement with these values.
- ❖ Financial support, scholarships, and grants may be offered to students who demonstrate interest in sustainability, environmental studies, or related fields, promoting participation in eco-friendly initiatives.

Educational Support

- ❖ BSU provides learning resources and teaching materials in accessible formats to support diverse learning needs, including students with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.
- ❖ Academic programs integrate sustainability principles, ethical sourcing, and responsible resource use across curricula in relevant faculties and research programs.
- ❖ Workshops, seminars, and hands-on projects related to waste management, recycling, renewable energy, and sustainable campus initiatives are made available to all students.



- ❖ Students are encouraged to participate in community engagement and research projects, such as Eco Space experiments, renewable energy monitoring, and plastic reduction campaigns, to develop practical skills in sustainability.
- ❖ Continuous guidance and mentorship are provided to ensure that students with disabilities can fully participate in laboratory activities, fieldwork, and other experiential learning opportunities.

Alignment with Policy Goals

By embedding accessibility, inclusive admission practices, and educational support into the sustainability framework, BSU ensures that all members of the university community are empowered to contribute to ethical sourcing, responsible resource use, and effective waste management. This approach fosters a culture of inclusivity, environmental responsibility, and lifelong learning in line with national legislation, international standards, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives of the Policy

The primary objectives of this Policy are to ensure that all university operations, procurement processes, and campus activities are conducted in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and ethically sound. The Policy provides a framework to guide decision-making, resource use, and stakeholder engagement in alignment with national regulations, international standards, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the key objectives is to **promote ethical procurement**. This involves ensuring that all goods, services, and materials are sourced from suppliers who demonstrate fair labor practices, provide safe and humane working conditions, and operate in an environmentally responsible manner. By prioritizing suppliers who adhere to these standards, the University seeks to advance social equity and sustainability throughout its supply chains.

Another objective is to **minimize the University's environmental impact**. This includes implementing measures to use energy, water, and materials responsibly, adopting energy-efficient technologies, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and



promoting the use of renewable energy sources wherever possible. These efforts contribute to lowering the University's ecological footprint while supporting climate action and sustainable campus development.

The Policy also aims to **implement effective waste management practices**. This involves preventing and reducing waste generation at source, segregating recyclable and organic materials, and safely collecting and disposing of hazardous waste. All waste management activities are carried out in compliance with national environmental legislation, occupational health and safety standards, and internationally recognized guidelines, ensuring the protection of human health and the environment.

Additional objectives include reducing the use of disposable items and single-use plastics, promoting the reuse and recycling of materials, integrating sustainability into educational and research activities, ensuring accessibility for all members of the University community, and engaging suppliers, contractors, and external partners in responsible practices. Through these objectives, the Policy seeks to create a sustainable, ethical, and inclusive campus that sets a benchmark for higher education institutions in Azerbaijan and beyond.

The objective of **Sustainable Use** is to ensure that all natural resources, materials, energy, water, and consumables used within the University are managed in an efficient, responsible, and environmentally conscious manner. It seeks to minimize waste, reduce the ecological footprint of campus operations, and promote the reuse, recycling, and conservation of resources.

Sustainable Use also aims to guide procurement and operational decisions so that they support long-term environmental protection, the adoption of renewable energy, and resource efficiency across all academic, administrative, and research activities.

By embedding sustainable practices into everyday University operations, the objective is to foster a culture of environmental responsibility among students, staff, suppliers, and partners while contributing to broader national and global sustainability goals.

Ultimately, the Sustainable Use objective ensures that Baku State University's growth and development are aligned with principles of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



Key Features of the Policy

The Policy aims to ensure that all University practices, from day-to-day operations to strategic planning, reflect principles of social responsibility, environmental protection, and ethical governance. It provides guidance for minimizing environmental impact, optimizing resource use, reducing waste generation, and promoting sustainable consumption across all University facilities.

Moreover, the Policy fosters a culture of accountability and transparency by setting measurable standards, monitoring compliance, and encouraging continuous improvement. It integrates sustainability into academic and research programs, offering students and staff opportunities to participate in initiatives that support renewable energy adoption, waste reduction, responsible sourcing, and community engagement.

Comprehensive Institutional Coverage

The Policy applies to all faculties, departments, research centers, administrative offices, laboratories, and campus facilities. It governs academic, administrative, research, and operational activities, as well as construction, renovation, and events organized by the University. This ensures that sustainability and ethical practices are embedded across the entire institution.

Ethical Procurement and Supplier Standards

All procurement activities are guided by ethical and sustainability principles. Suppliers are selected based on their adherence to fair labor practices, safe and humane working conditions, environmentally responsible production methods, and verified sustainability certifications. Contracts include clauses requiring compliance with these standards, and supplier performance is regularly monitored and evaluated.

Effective Waste Management

The Policy establishes procedures for preventing, reducing, segregating, recycling, treating, and safely disposing of all waste types, including general, organic,



recyclable, and hazardous waste. It promotes a circular economic approach, minimizes landfill use, reduces pollution, and ensures compliance with national environmental laws and international safety standards.

Sustainable Use of Resources

Energy, water, materials, and consumables are managed efficiently and responsibly across all University operations. The Policy encourages renewable energy adoption, reduction of single-use items, recycling, and reuse of materials. These measures reduce the University's ecological footprint while supporting long-term environmental sustainability.

Integration with Education and Research

Sustainability principles are embedded into teaching, research, and student engagement programs. Workshops, hands-on projects, and laboratory activities encourage students and researchers to apply sustainable practices, ethical sourcing, and waste reduction strategies, fostering environmental awareness and practical skills.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

All sustainability initiatives, facilities, and programs are designed to be accessible to students, staff, and visitors with disabilities or special needs. The Policy ensures that every member of the University community can actively participate in sustainability activities and benefit from environmentally responsible infrastructure.

Extension to Outsourced Services and Suppliers

All contractors, service providers, and suppliers engaged by the University are required to comply with the same ethical, environmental, and sustainability standards. This includes responsible waste disposal, resource efficiency, and adherence to fair labor practices, extending the impact of the Policy beyond the University's immediate operations.



Monitoring, Reporting, and Continuous Improvement

The University implements measurable indicators, audits, and reporting mechanisms to monitor compliance with the Policy. Performance is regularly evaluated, and continuous improvement strategies are applied to enhance sustainability outcomes, reduce environmental impact, and maintain ethical standards in all operations.

Alignment with National and International Standards

The Policy is aligned with national environmental, labor, and occupational safety legislation, as well as internationally recognized sustainability frameworks. It also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Community Engagement and Awareness

The University actively encourages students, staff, and external partners to participate in awareness campaigns, workshops, and initiatives that promote ethical sourcing, sustainable resource use, and waste reduction. These programs help build a culture of sustainability and social responsibility both on campus and in the wider community.





Transparency and Accountability

All sustainability activities, reports, and performance results are communicated transparently to the University community and external stakeholders. This ensures accountability and reinforces the University's commitment to ethical and environmentally responsible practices.

Long-Term Strategic Focus

The Policy is designed to provide a long-term framework for sustainability and ethical operations, supporting the University's strategic objectives of reducing its environmental footprint, promoting social responsibility, and cultivating a culture of environmental stewardship for future generations.

Existing Practices and Sustainability Initiatives at Baku State University

Baku State University (BSU) has taken significant steps to integrate sustainability into its campus operations and community engagement. The University has introduced a comprehensive food-waste monitoring system in its dining facilities. Through this system, BSU measures the volume of food waste generated at different stages, including preparation, serving, and post-consumer leftovers. Organic waste is carefully segregated and redirected to composting and recycling processes, thereby reducing landfill contributions and promoting responsible resource management.

BSU volunteers have actively contributed to environmental protection through the initiative titled "Give a New Life to an Old Battery!". This campaign focuses on the collection of used household batteries to ensure their safe and environmentally sound disposal. By addressing hazardous waste, the initiative raises awareness among students and staff about the environmental risks of improper battery disposal and encourages responsible consumption practices.



BSU further strengthened its sustainability commitment by becoming a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN). As the first higher-education institution in Azerbaijan to join this global network, BSU demonstrates its dedication to international sustainability standards and collaboration in advancing green campus development.



In partnership with the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA), BSU installed an “EcoEnergy” station that integrates solar and wind power technologies to provide charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. This project reflects the University’s commitment to renewable energy adoption, carbon footprint reduction, and the promotion of sustainable transportation solutions on campus.

BSU also actively participated in the “Plastic-Free July” global challenge. Students, particularly from the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science, organized awareness campaigns to reduce plastic consumption. They distributed reusable shopping bags and educated the university community about the environmental impacts of single-use plastics and disposable products. These activities contribute to fostering environmentally responsible behavior among students and staff.

The University has launched a dedicated “Eco Space” pilot project covering approximately 1,000 square meters. This innovative area includes aquaponics systems, a bioreactor, and solar panels, serving as a living laboratory for students and researchers. The Eco Space enables practical engagement with green technologies, supports research in sustainable agriculture and renewable energy, and promotes hands-on learning in environmental sciences.

Within its campus dining services, BSU has implemented sustainable sourcing practices by prioritizing locally sourced and seasonal ingredients. The installation of filtered water stations has significantly reduced reliance on single-use plastic bottles.



In addition, continuous monitoring of food waste in the canteen ensures improved efficiency and supports waste-reduction targets.

BSU has also developed a policy on aquatic ecosystem sustainability. This policy emphasizes responsible sourcing of aquatic food products, including seafood, and promotes measures to reduce plastic waste in campus operations. By integrating environmental considerations into procurement and operational policies, the University strengthens its overall sustainability framework.

Furthermore, BSU maintains partnerships with community organizations and educational institutions to advance sustainability awareness beyond the campus.



Retention

Retention strategies focus on maintaining the skills, awareness, and engagement of students, staff, and external partners to embed sustainable practices deeply into the university culture. Key retention measures include:

Staff and Academic Retention

- Continuous professional development programs and workshops on sustainability, ethical sourcing, and waste management for academic, administrative, and technical personnel.



- Integration of sustainability responsibilities into job descriptions, performance appraisals, and promotion criteria to reinforce long-term commitment.
- Mentorship programs where experienced staff guide new employees in implementing and maintaining sustainability practices across departments.

Student Retention and Engagement

- Embedding sustainability principles into curricula across faculties to ensure students graduate with strong environmental and ethical competencies.
- Providing ongoing opportunities for students to participate in research, campus initiatives, and community engagement projects related to ethical sourcing, waste reduction, and resource efficiency.
- Recognition programs, certificates, and awards for students who actively contribute to sustainability projects, fostering continued participation.

Knowledge Retention and Institutional Memory

- Maintaining detailed records, reports, and digital resources related to sustainability initiatives, supplier audits, waste management, and resource usage trends.
- Ensuring continuity of practices through documented Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and policy guidelines accessible to all staff and students.
- Leveraging alumni networks and partnerships to share best practices and retain lessons learned beyond the immediate university community.

Partnership and Supplier Retention

- Encouraging long-term partnerships with suppliers and service providers who adhere to BSU's ethical and sustainability standards.
- Conducting regular evaluations, feedback sessions, and engagement programs with partners to maintain compliance and strengthen collaborative sustainability efforts.

Monitoring and Continuous Improvement



- Tracking participation in training, workshops, and student programs to identify retention gaps.
- Periodically reviewing retention strategies to ensure that knowledge, skills, and sustainable behaviors are maintained and transferred across generations of students and staff.

Purpose and Commitment

Baku State University (BSU) is committed to integrating sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical practices into all aspects of its operations, procurement processes, and resource management systems. The University recognizes that higher education institutions play a critical role in advancing sustainable development and shaping responsible future leaders. Therefore, BSU seeks to ensure that its institutional practices reflect environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic responsibility.

This policy establishes a clear framework to guide decision-making related to food sourcing, supplies procurement, waste management, and the responsible use of materials across campus. It ensures that goods and services purchased by the University are sourced in an environmentally sustainable and ethically responsible manner, considering lifecycle impacts, supplier practices, and long-term environmental consequences.

BSU is dedicated to promoting fair labor standards, transparency in supply chains, and compliance with national legislation and international best practices. The University actively supports suppliers who demonstrate commitment to human rights, safe working conditions, and environmentally sound production processes.

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land), BSU aims to reduce waste generation, lower greenhouse gas emissions, protect biodiversity, and promote sustainable resource use. Through responsible



procurement and operational practices, the University seeks to minimize its ecological footprint while fostering a culture of sustainability within the academic community.

By adopting this policy, BSU reaffirms its long-term commitment to continuous improvement, stakeholder engagement, and measurable sustainability outcomes. The University will regularly review and enhance its practices to ensure that environmental protection, ethical responsibility, and social accountability remain central to its institutional mission and strategic development.

Mechanism, Tools, Execution, Monitoring, and Review Framework based on policy Ethical Sourcing, Waste Management, and Sustainable Use

The Ethical Sourcing, Waste Management, and Sustainable Use Policy operates through a clearly defined governance and operational model structured around five interconnected pillars: **Mechanism, Tools, Execution, Monitoring, and Review**. This structured approach ensures that sustainability principles are not merely declarative commitments, but are systematically implemented, assessed, and continuously improved across all university activities.

1. Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)

The Mechanism establishes the institutional framework and distribution of responsibilities. Strategic oversight is provided by the Rectorate and coordinated through the Sustainability Office. Implementation responsibilities are shared among procurement units, facilities management, academic departments, laboratory supervisors, and external service providers. This clear allocation of duties ensures accountability and integrates sustainability considerations into procurement decisions, campus operations, research activities, and contractual relationships.

2. Tools (Resources & Instruments)

The Tools pillar provides the practical instruments required for effective implementation. These include supplier codes of conduct, sustainability assessment criteria, waste segregation infrastructure, energy and water monitoring systems, contractual sustainability clauses, internal audit procedures, performance indicators,



and reporting mechanisms. These instruments create standardized procedures that allow all structural units of the University to apply sustainability requirements consistently and transparently.

3. Execution (Implementation Actions)

Execution represents the operational application of the Policy. It includes responsible supplier selection, preference for certified and locally sourced goods, systematic waste segregation and recycling, safe handling of hazardous materials, reduction of single-use plastics, improvement of energy and water efficiency, and expansion of renewable energy initiatives. Additionally, sustainability principles are incorporated into teaching, research, and community engagement activities to promote a culture of environmental responsibility throughout the University.

4. Monitoring

Monitoring provides a measurable and evidence-based evaluation of performance. The University tracks key indicators such as waste reduction rates, recycling performance, supplier compliance levels, renewable energy usage, and resource consumption efficiency. Internal audits, compliance checks, and annual sustainability reporting ensure transparency and allow management to assess whether objectives are being achieved.

5. Review

The Review process ensures continuous institutional development. Annual evaluations measure progress against established targets, while a comprehensive policy reassessment is conducted every three years. Findings from monitoring activities, stakeholder feedback, and benchmarking against national regulations and international sustainability standards — including the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations — inform necessary updates and strategic improvements.

Policy Component	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools (Resources & Instruments)	Execution (Implementation Actions)	Monitoring	Review
Ethical Sourcing of Food & Supplies	Sustainability Office under Rectorate; Procurement	Supplier Code of Conduct; Ethical procurement	Pre-qualification screening of suppliers; Preference for	% suppliers compliant with sustainability	Full policy review every 3 years; Annual performance



Policy Component	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools (Resources & Instruments)	Execution (Implementation Actions)	Monitoring	Review
	Department; Sustainability & Ethical Procurement Committee	clauses in contracts; Sustainability evaluation checklist; ISO certification requirements (ISO 14001, ISO 45001); Approved supplier database	local, seasonal, certified products; Integration of environmental and labor criteria in tenders; Annual supplier evaluation	criteria; Annual supplier audits; Procurement compliance reports	review and corrective action plans
Food Sustainability & Catering Services	Catering Services Management; Procurement Unit; Sustainability Office	Sustainable sourcing guidelines; Food waste monitoring system; Local sourcing framework; Reusable material standards	Ethical ingredient sourcing; Monitoring pre- and post-consumer food waste; Composting organic waste; Reduction of disposable packaging	Quarterly food waste data; % local sourcing rate; Reduction in disposable item use	Annual sustainability report evaluation; Adjustment of sourcing targets
Waste Management (General & Recyclable Waste)	Facilities Management; Campus Services; Faculty Coordinators	Color-coded segregation bins; Recycling stations; Waste tracking system; Composting units	Campus-wide waste segregation; Recycling and composting programs; Landfill reduction initiatives	Quarterly waste generation and recycling statistics; % landfill reduction	Annual waste performance assessment; Infrastructure improvement planning
Hazardous Waste Management	Laboratory Managers; Safety Officers; Licensed Waste Contractors	Hazardous waste logbooks; Dedicated collection points;	Safe segregation and storage of chemical, medical, biological, and e-waste; Staff and	Hazardous waste volume tracking; Safety compliance inspections	Annual environmental safety audit; Regulatory compliance review



Policy Component	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools (Resources & Instruments)	Execution (Implementation Actions)	Monitoring	Review
Plastic & Disposable Minimization	Sustainability Committee; Campus Services; Catering Management	National compliance guidelines; Contractor agreements	student training; Licensed disposal procedures	Annual plastic procurement data; Reduction in single-use plastic consumption	Mid-term review of 2030 roadmap; Policy adjustment based on targets
		Single-use plastic ban policy; Refill water stations; Biodegradable procurement standards; “Zero Disposable Campus 2030” roadmap	Elimination of plastic cups, straws, bottles; Replacement with durable alternatives; Awareness campaigns (e.g., plastic reduction initiatives)		
Sustainable Resource Use (Energy & Water)	Sustainability Office; Technical & Facilities Department	Energy monitoring systems; Renewable energy infrastructure (EcoEnergy station); Water conservation systems; Smart building controls	Adoption of renewable energy; Energy-efficient lighting and equipment; Water-saving measures; Preventive maintenance	Energy consumption per building; % renewable energy share; Water usage statistics	Annual energy efficiency review; Expansion plan for renewable technologies
Supply Chain & Outsourced Services Compliance	Procurement & Legal Departments; Contract Management Unit	Contract compliance clauses; Vendor sustainability self-assessment forms;	Mandatory compliance for catering, cleaning, maintenance, and construction contractors; Sustainable	Contractor sustainability audits; Compliance reports	Annual contractor evaluation; Contract renewal based on performance



Policy Component	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools (Resources & Instruments)	Execution (Implementation Actions)	Monitoring	Review
Education & Research Integration	Academic Affairs; Research Centers; Faculty Sustainability Coordinators	Certification verification tools Curriculum integration framework; Eco Space research facilities; Workshops & seminars	packaging requirements Embedding sustainability topics in curricula; Hands-on renewable energy and waste research; Student engagement initiatives	Participation rates; Number of sustainability projects; Research output tracking	Annual academic program review; Curriculum enhancement updates
Accessibility & Inclusive Sustainability	Accessibility Support Services; Sustainability Office; Facilities Management	Accessible infrastructure standards; Inclusive training materials; Accessibility audit tools	Barrier-free recycling stations; Accessible renewable energy and Eco Space facilities; Inclusive workshops	Accessibility audit findings; Stakeholder feedback reports	Periodic infrastructure review; Improvement implementation plan
Community Engagement & Awareness	Sustainability Office; Student Organizations; Communication Department	Public sustainability dashboard; Awareness campaigns; Workshops & outreach programs	“Give a New Life to an Old Battery” campaign; Plastic reduction initiatives; External partnerships	Event participation rates; Community engagement metrics	Annual outreach evaluation; Strategy refinement
Transparency & Reporting	Rectorate; Sustainability Office; Internal Audit Unit	Sustainability dashboard; KPI framework; Annual Sustainability Report template	Publication of annual sustainability report; Public communication of targets and progress	KPI tracking; Internal audit findings	Annual internal review; Three-year strategic policy update
Strategic Alignment & Compliance	Rectorate; Legal Department;	National legislation compliance	Alignment with national environmental	Compliance verification;	Comprehensive policy



Policy Component	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools (Resources & Instruments)	Execution (Implementation Actions)	Monitoring	Review
Sustainability Office		checklist; SDG alignment matrix; International benchmarking tools	laws and international sustainability frameworks; Strategic planning integration	Benchmarking results	revision every three years

Achievements

Examples what we have already done

- ❖ An excursion to the Baku Zoological Park was organized on the occasion of March 3 - World Wildlife Day, on the initiative of the members of the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science of the Baku State "BSU Volunteers" organization. During the excursion, information was provided about the endangered species' protection and reintroduction program included in the "Red Book" of Azerbaijan. Students also got acquainted with other unique examples of fauna. It should be noted that Baku Zoological Park has been operating since 1928. In 2017, on the initiative of the "International Dialogue for the Protection of the Environment" Public Association (IDEA), major reconstruction works are being carried out in the zoological park, and the park was opened in 2021. After reconstruction, the area of the zoo increased from 2.25 hectares to 4.25 hectares. Currently, there are 125 plant and animal resources in the zoological park. 22 of their species are included in the "Red Book". There are 62 plants and animals in the aquaterrarium of the zoo. In the park, the protection of the living gene pool of many rare and endangered animals is ensured, and after breeding, they are released into the wild.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/excursion-to-baku-zoological-park>



❖ Employees of the Biodiversity Conservation Service of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources conducted a training session at the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science of Baku State University (BSU) in connection with World Reserves and National Parks Day on January 11. During their presentations, the head of the department of the Biodiversity Conservation Service, Elnur Ibrahimov, and the department's consultant, Aytaj Khalafli, provided detailed information on specially protected natural areas, including national parks, state nature reserves, and state nature sanctuaries, as well as the latest developments implemented in these areas. The presentations also covered the planned establishment of a "Geopark" based on the Absheron mud volcanoes group State Nature Reserve and a "Biosphere Reserve" based on the Zagatala State Nature Reserve. Additionally, the creation of two new national parks, Bozdag National Park and Ilisu National Park, which will be based on the existing Ilisu State Nature Reserve—was discussed. It was noted that currently, there are 10 national parks and 10 state nature reserves operating in the country.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/a-training-session-at-bsu-dedicated-to-world-reserves-and-national-parks-day>

❖ Members of the "BSU Volunteers" organization from Baku State University participated in the "Go Camp" picnic project in Khizi, supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Youth Fund, and organized by the Union of Azerbaijan Voluntary Organizations. The project's goal is to foster unity and enhance networking among volunteers. Participants enjoyed a hiking trip and various interactive games in the Altyağac National Park area of Khizi.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-volunteers-join-go-camp-picnic-project>



❖ A memorandum of understanding on cooperation was signed with the Biological Diversity Protection Service of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

The decision to hold the 29th session of the This decision accepted by all the countries of the world is a clear example of the great trust and respect shown to our country. Declaring 2024 as the "Year of Solidarity for the Green World" in Azerbaijan will give further impetus to our country's work in this direction. All this imposes certain obligations on state institutions and higher education institutions. Rector also mentioned that the university conducts policy-focused research in collaboration with government agencies and institutions.

Rector expressed confidence that the signed memorandum will contribute to the state policy implemented in this field in the country.

Firuddin Aliyev, head of the Biological Diversity Protection Service, noted that all national parks and reserves in Azerbaijan have all conditions for conducting experiments and scientific research. To increase the efficiency of the educational process, BSU students can be organized to have experience and training in the Biological Diversity Protection Service. According to the memorandum of understanding, the employees of the structural divisions of the Service are expected to be involved in the educational process at BSU. In the memorandum of understanding, implementation of international and national academic and scientific events and trainings, conferences, seminars, symposiums and lectures in the field of ecological law, as well as preparation of ethno-ecological and ecotourism-oriented programs for students, conducting joint scientific research, organizing exhibitions, summer camps is also intended. BSU actively engages in policy-focused research in collaboration with government departments and agencies.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/a-memorandum-of-understanding-was-signed-with-the-biological-diversity-protection-service>



- ❖ A flower planting campaign dedicated to Knowledge Day was organized by the Student Trade Union Committee (STUC) of Baku State University (BSU). Participants in the campaign included the STUC, "BSU Volunteers," members of the Student Youth Organization, and students from various faculties. The aim of the campaign was to help protect the environment, enhance ecological education, and contribute to nature.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/flower-planting-campaign-at-bsu>

- ❖ A tree-planting campaign dedicated to the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World" was held as part of the "ECOLEAD" project (Enhancing the Environment: Awareness and Law Enforcement Activities) jointly implemented by the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and Baku State University (BSU). During the event, attended by officials and employees of the organizations, as well as BSU students, trees suitable for the soil and climatic conditions of the Absheron Peninsula were planted along Abbas Mirza Sharifzade Street in the Yasamal district of Baku. It is noteworthy that the "ECOLEAD" platform aims to prevent environmental violations, share experiences, and raise public awareness regarding environmental protection through the efforts of prosecutor's office employees, ecologists, higher education institutions, and community representatives. The "ECOLEAD" project is intended to restore greenery damaged by environmental crimes throughout the country. The foundation of the project was established through a memorandum of understanding signed at an event held in Khankendi city among the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and BSU, with Nakhchivan State University joining the memorandum later.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/bsu-students-participated-in-a-tree-planting-campaign-within-the-framework-of-the-ecolead-project>



❖ Students of the 4th year of the “Food Engineering” program of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the Faculty of Biology of Baku State University (BSU) participated in a practical training session at “Herba-Flora” LLC within the framework of the course “Technological Processes in the Food Industry”. The session, led by Associate Professor Chingiz Aliyev, was conducted in collaboration with the specialists of “Herba-Flora” LLC. The students were provided with comprehensive information about the design and modernization of technological lines applied in food production and public catering services, as well as the modern equipment used in the chemical analysis laboratory of the enterprise. In line with the course curriculum, the students observed the theoretical and practical foundations of creating technological lines and examined the structure, operating principles, and technical specifications of equipment, machinery, and apparatus used in the food and pharmaceutical industries. During the visit, the students also familiarized themselves with the storage facility for planting raw materials, the technical tools and devices ensuring quality preservation, and the processes involved in packaging and transportation of finished products. Additionally, a demonstration of the structural scheme of the technological line for sesame oil production at “Herba-Flora” LLC was presented.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/visit-of-bsu-students-to-herba-flora-llc-for-practical-training>

❖ The “BSU Volunteers” organization, together with students from the Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science, held an awareness-raising event dedicated to the International Recycling Day. The event addressed key issues such as proper waste management, the importance of recycling, and the preservation of ecological balance. The primary goal was to enhance environmental awareness among students, teach them practical ways to reuse waste materials, and encourage the integration of eco-friendly habits into daily life. The positive impact of recycling on the environment, efficient use of resources, and contributions to ecosystem preservation were explained in



detail to the participants. Discussions highlighted the global and local impact of environmental problems. Students were informed about the proper sorting of plastic, paper, and other materials for recycling and were given practical recommendations to reduce waste and strengthen their ecological responsibility in everyday activities.

For more information, please click here

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

- ❖ A scientific seminar on "Prospects of rechargeable Sodium-Ion batteries" was held at the Nanoresearch laboratory of Baku State University. Laboratory researcher Almara Rahimli reported on rechargeable sodium-ion batteries, their advantages over lithium-ion batteries, their parameters, similarities and differences, and the latest innovations in this field. The speaker noted that the structure of sodium-ion batteries is like lithium-ion batteries widely used in various electronic devices, but sodium ions are used instead of lithium ions to store energy. The advantage of sodium-ion batteries over lithium-ion batteries is lower production costs due to the unlimited supply of sodium. They can also be made in similar sizes to lithium-ion batteries, unlike sodium-sulfur batteries. Materials used as anodes in sodium-ion batteries swell up to 400-500 percent of their original size when interacting with sodium, causing mechanical damage and loss of electrical contact. Recently, research has been conducted on the application of new types of graphite layers for the negative electrode of sodium-ion batteries, and the hope that these types of batteries will replace lithium-ion batteries is increasing.

For more information, please click here

<https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/news/scientific-seminar-on-prospects-of-rechargeable-sodium-ion-batteries>



Planned Activities

BSU Sustainability Implementation Framework (2025–2030)

The 2025–2030 Sustainability Implementation Framework of Baku State University provides a structured, measurable roadmap for integrating ethical sourcing, waste management, and sustainable resource use across academic, research, social, and operational activities. Designed to reflect the scale of the University (over 25,000 students and 3,000 staff), the framework translates policy commitments into concrete institutional actions with defined timelines, governance responsibilities, and key performance indicators (KPIs).

Strategic Structure (2025–2030)

Short-Term Priorities (2025–2026) focus on building governance infrastructure and compliance systems. These include establishing a centralized sustainability data platform, integrating ethical procurement standards into contracts, launching mandatory sustainability orientation for students, strengthening supplier packaging requirements, and conducting accessibility audits of sustainability facilities.

Medium-Term Actions (2026–2028) emphasize infrastructure upgrades and operational efficiency. Key initiatives include campus-wide waste segregation expansion, energy-efficiency retrofits, water conservation measures, research growth through Eco Space projects, and enhanced hazardous waste management systems.

Long-Term Goals (2025–2030) aim at structural transformation. These include implementing the “Zero Disposable Campus” roadmap, expanding renewable energy capacity through the EcoEnergy station, embedding sustainability across academic curricula, and strengthening national and international sustainability partnerships.



Measurable Institutional Outcomes

By 2030, BSU aims to achieve:

- Significant landfill diversion through improved waste segregation
- Major reduction in single-use plastics
- Increased renewable energy share in campus electricity
- Reduced electricity and water consumption
- High compliance rate among suppliers with ethical and environmental standards
- Broad integration of sustainability into academic programs
- Annual public sustainability reporting for transparency

Overall, the framework ensures that sustainability at BSU is **institution-wide, data-driven, inclusive, and aligned with national legislation and global sustainability commitments**, reinforcing the University’s role as a leader in responsible higher education development in Azerbaijan.

Category	Activity	Timeline	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools	Execution	Monitoring	Review	KPI (Target by 2030)	Expected Outcome
Structural Reform	Establishing Central Sustainability Data System	Short-term (2025–2026)	Sustainability Office under Rectorate; IT Department	Digital sustainability dashboard; Data reporting templates	Develop centralized system to collect waste, energy, procurement, and plastic-use data across all faculties	Quarterly data reporting; Internal audit	Annual review	100% faculties reporting data by 2026	Unified sustainability performance tracking
	Ethical Supplier Compliance System	Short-term (2025–2026)	Procurement Dept.; Legal Office	Supplier Code of Conduct; Contract clauses; Certification	Integrate ethical & ISO criteria into all procurement contracts	Annual supplier evaluation	3-year policy audit	90% suppliers compliant by 2027	Transparent & responsible supply chain



Category	Activity	Time line	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools	Execution	Monitoring	Review	KPI (Target by 2030)	Expected Outcome
Structural Reform	Campus-wide Waste Segregation Infrastructure Upgrade	Medium-term (2026–2028)	Facilities Mgmt.; Sustainability Office	Color-coded bins; Hazardous waste stations	Install standardized recycling stations in all academic buildings & dormitories	Quarterly waste audits	Annual performance review	60% waste diverted from landfill by 2028	Significant landfill reduction
	Zero Disposable Campus Roadmap	Long-term (2025–2030)	Rectorate; Catering Services; Student Affairs	Plastic ban policy; Refill stations; Awareness materials	Gradual elimination of single-use plastics; expand refill water stations	Annual plastic procurement audit	3-year milestone review	80% reduction in single-use plastics by 2030	Plastic-minimized campus environment
Academic Integration	Curriculum Integration of Sustainability	Short-term (2025–2026)	Academic Affairs; Faculty Deans	Curriculum guidelines; SDG alignment matrix	Introducing sustainability modules in 50% of undergraduate programs	Annual curriculum review	3-year academic audit	70% programs include sustainability by 2030	Sustainability embedded in teaching
Academic Integration	Mandatory Sustainability Orientation for Students	Short-term (2025)	Student Affairs; Sustainability Office	Orientation modules; Digital training platform	Provide sustainability training to all first-year students (~4,000 annually)	Participation records	Annual update	90% student participation yearly	Increased environmental awareness
Research	Expansion of Research	Medium-term	Research Office;	Renewable	Increase interdisciplinary	Research	Annual research	30% increase	Strengthened



Category	Activity	Time line	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools	Execution	Monitoring	Review	KPI (Target by 2030)	Expected Outcome
Development	Eco Space Research Projects	term (2026–2028)	Eco Space Management	energy lab tools; Aquaponics systems	green research projects	output tracking	evaluation	in sustaina- bility-related publications	research capacity
	Renewable Energy Expansion (EcoEnergy Station Scaling)	Long-term (2026–2030)	Facilities Dept.; External Partners	Solar panels; Wind systems; Monitoring meters	Expand renewable energy share in campus electricity	Energy usage monitoring	Annual energy audit	25% campus electricity from renewables by 2030	Reduced carbon footprint
Social Activities	Plastic-Free & Waste Awareness Campaigns	Short-term (Annual 2025–2030)	Student Organizations; Communications Office	Campaign toolkits; Workshops	Conduct awareness campaigns (Plastic-Free July, Battery Campaign)	Participation data	Annual campaign review	5,000+ participants annually	Behavioral changes among students
Social Activities	“Give a New Life to an Old Battery” Expansion	Medium-term (2025–2027)	Sustainability Office; Volunteers	Battery collection stations	Install collection boxes in all faculties	Hazardous waste reports	Annual evaluation	50% increase in battery collection by 2027	Reduced hazardous waste pollution
Operational Efficiency	Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program	Medium-term (2026–2028)	Facilities Mgmt.; Finance Dept.	LED lighting; Smart meters	Replace conventional lighting & upgrade systems	Energy consumption reports	Annual audit	20% reduction in electricity consumption	Operational cost savings



Category	Activity	Time line	Mechanism (Governance & Responsibility)	Tools	Execution	Monitoring	Review	KPI (Target by 2030)	Expected Outcome
Operational Efficiency	Water Conservation Measures	Medium-term (2026–2028)	Technical Services	Water-saving devices	Install water-efficient fixtures in dormitories & labs	Water usage tracking	Annual infrastructure review	15% water consumption reduction	Improved resource efficiency
Supply Chain Reform	Sustainable Packaging Requirement	Short-term (2025–2026)	Procurement Dept.	Packaging reduction clause	Require recyclable/biodegradable packaging from suppliers	Supplier compliance audit	Contract renewal review	70% of suppliers use eco-packaging	Reduced packaging waste
Community Engagement	External Sustainability Partnerships	Long-term (2025–2030)	Rectorate; International Office	ISCN collaboration; MoUs	Expand cooperation with local NGOs & institutions	Partnership reports	3-year evaluation	10 active sustainability partnerships by 2030	Regional sustainability leadership
Monitoring & Reporting	Annual Sustainability Report Publication	Annual (2025–2030)	Sustainability Office	KPI framework; Public dashboard	Publish transparent performance report	Internal audit	Annual Rectorate review	Report published each year	Institutional transparency
Accessibility Integration	Accessibility Audit of Sustainability Facilities	Short-term (2025–2026)	Accessibility Services; Facilities Mgmt.	Audit checklist	Assess waste stations, EcoEnergy, Eco Space	Audit findings	Biennial review	100% compliance with accessibility standards	Inclusive sustainability participation



Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies

Baku State University adopts an **Ethical Sourcing Policy** that ensures goods and services are obtained in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. BSU is committed to ensuring that all goods and services are procured in a socially responsible, environmentally sustainable, and ethically sound manner. The University’s Ethical Sourcing Policy prioritizes suppliers who demonstrate fair labor practices, safe working conditions, and compliance with both national and international labor regulations, while prohibiting child and forced labor. Wherever possible, BSU encourages the use of locally produced, seasonal, and certified products, such as organic, eco-labeled, or Fair-Trade items, reducing the environmental impact of transportation and supporting local economies.

The Policy integrates sustainability and ethical principles into all procurement processes, including catering, laboratory supplies, office materials, and campus services. Suppliers are evaluated annually for compliance with ethical, social, and environmental standards, and contractual agreements include clear requirements for adherence to these principles. The University also engages its staff, students, and procurement teams through workshops and awareness programs to promote understanding of ethical sourcing and responsible supply chain practices.

Through this approach, BSU seeks to increase the proportion of ethically and sustainably sourced products on campus, reduce the carbon footprint associated with procurement, and ensure supplier accountability. By embedding ethical sourcing into its operations, the University strengthens its commitment to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and sustainable development, contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Objectives	Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fair and ethical labor practices across the supply chain – Work only with suppliers who uphold humane working conditions, fair wages, and prohibit child or forced labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory ethical sourcing in catering and food services – All campus dining facilities, cafes, and event catering are required to prioritize ingredients that are ethically sourced, with particular focus on locally produced, seasonal, and sustainably



• **Promote local and sustainable sourcing** – Encourage procurement of locally produced, seasonal, and certified products (organic, Fair Trade, eco-labeled) to support regional economies and reduce environmental impact.

• **Minimize environmental footprint** – Reduce carbon emissions and transportation-related environmental impacts by sourcing from suppliers with efficient logistics and eco-friendly practices.

• **Foster long-term sustainable partnerships** – Engage vendors and service providers who demonstrate commitment to sustainability, ethical practices, and compliance with BSU’s procurement policy.

• **Integrate sustainability criteria into supplier evaluation** – Regularly assess suppliers using measurable sustainability and ethical indicators, ensuring continuous improvement and accountability.

• **Support responsible production and packaging** – Encourage suppliers to adopt environmentally friendly production methods, minimize packaging waste, and use recyclable or biodegradable materials where feasible.

• **Enhance transparency and traceability** – Ensure full visibility of supply chains to track ethical and environmental compliance, promoting accountability across all purchased goods and services.

• **Educate and raise awareness among stakeholders** – Promote understanding of ethical sourcing principles among students, staff, and suppliers, fostering a culture of responsible procurement throughout the University.

certified products. This ensures both environmental responsibility and support for local communities.

• **Inclusion of sustainability clauses in procurement contracts** – All contracts with suppliers, vendors, and service providers include explicit requirements for compliance with environmental standards, ethical labor practices, and sustainable production methods. This contractual obligation strengthens accountability across the supply chain.

• **Annual supplier performance evaluation** – Suppliers are regularly assessed against clearly defined sustainability and ethical sourcing indicators. Performance metrics include compliance with fair labor standards, environmental certifications, packaging practices, and adherence to BSU’s procurement policies.

• **Supplier engagement and capacity building** – BSU collaborates with suppliers to improve sustainable practices, providing guidance on reducing environmental impact, adopting eco-friendly packaging, and implementing responsible production methods.

• **Preference for local and certified suppliers** – Procurement decisions prioritize local producers, seasonal products, and items with verified sustainability certifications (e.g., organic, Fair Trade, eco-labeled). This approach reduces transportation emissions and fosters regional economic development.

• **Integration with University sustainability initiatives** – Ethical sourcing practices are aligned with broader BSU sustainability projects, such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, and the “Plastic-Free Campus”



• **Align procurement with global sustainability goals** – Ensure sourcing practices contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

campaign, ensuring a holistic approach to environmental responsibility.

• **Transparency and traceability of supply chains** – BSU maintains records and tracking systems to ensure visibility of suppliers' ethical and environmental compliance, enabling informed procurement decisions and accountability in all purchases.

• **Awareness and training programs** – Staff involved in procurement, catering, and supply management receive training on ethical sourcing principles, sustainability standards, and environmental regulations to promote consistent application of the policy across all university operations.





Waste Disposal & Hazardous Material Management

BSU maintains a Waste Disposal Policy aligned with environmental and health safety standards.

Hazardous Waste Management

- Hazardous waste (laboratory chemicals, e-waste, medical or biological waste) is managed in accordance with national environmental regulations and international safety guidelines.
- Dedicated hazardous waste collection points are established in laboratories and technical departments.
- Licensed waste management contractors handle collection, treatment, and safe disposal.
- Staff and students receive training in proper hazardous waste segregation and disposal.

Measurement and Monitoring of Waste

- BSU actively monitors and records the amount of waste generated, sent to landfill, and recycled through quarterly reports.
- Annual sustainability reports include waste statistics and performance targets for landfill reduction.
- Continuous efforts are made to improve recycling infrastructure across campus.

Use Minimisation Policies

A key priority of the Policy is the progressive elimination of single-use plastics and disposable materials. BSU is committed to reducing the use of plastic cups, bottles, straws, packaging materials, and other short-life products within campus facilities,



events, and dining services. Reusable, recyclable, or biodegradable alternatives are prioritized in procurement decisions, and refill water stations are promoted to discourage bottled water consumption.

The University also encourages the replacement of disposable items in cafeterias, laboratories, and offices with durable and washable alternatives. Digital communication systems and electronic documentation are actively promoted to reduce paper consumption and printing waste. Sustainable office practices, such as double-sided printing, shared equipment usage, and responsible purchasing, are integrated into daily operations.

In laboratories and research settings, careful inventory management and responsible material usage are promoted to reduce surplus procurement and hazardous waste generation. Departments are encouraged to plan resource use efficiently and adopt circular economy principles where feasible.

Awareness campaigns, student-led initiatives, and staff training programs support behavioral change and foster a culture of conscious consumption. Through measurable targets and regular monitoring, BSU works toward its long-term objective of becoming a “Zero Disposable Campus” by 2030.

Minimisation of Plastic Use

BSU is committed to the progressive elimination of single-use plastics across university operations.

- Ban on single-use plastic cups, straws, and bottles in campus facilities and events.
- Promotion of refill stations, reusable bottles, and environmentally friendly packaging.
- Preference for biodegradable or recyclable alternatives in procurement.
- Awareness campaigns encouraging students and staff to reduce plastic consumption.

Minimisation of Disposable Items

- Encouragement of reusable materials in cafeterias, laboratories, and offices.



- Replacement of disposable tableware and utensils with washable, durable alternatives.
- Use of digital communication and documentation to reduce paper waste.
- Implementation of a “Zero Disposable Campus” roadmap by 2030.

Supply Chain and Outsourced Services

Policy Extension to Outsourced Services

- All outsourced service providers (including catering, cleaning, and maintenance) must comply with BSU’s environmental and ethical sourcing policies.
- Contractors are required to demonstrate responsible waste disposal practices and reduction of disposable materials.

Policy Extension to Suppliers

- The policy extends to suppliers of equipment, stationery, and building materials.
- Suppliers are required to:
 - Minimise packaging waste and plastic use.
 - Use recyclable, energy-efficient, or environmentally friendly products.
 - Adhere to fair labour standards and environmental compliance.
 - Preference is given to suppliers with verifiable sustainability certifications (ISO 14001, ISO 45001, Fair Trade, etc.).

Governance

- The Sustainability Office under BSU’s Rectorate oversees policy implementation.
- Annual performance reviews and sustainability audits ensure compliance.



- The policy will be updated every three years to incorporate emerging sustainability standards and technologies.

Communication and Engagement

Effective communication and active engagement are essential to ensuring the successful implementation of the Ethical Sourcing, Waste Management, and Sustainable Use Policy at Baku State University. The University is committed to maintaining transparency and fostering a culture of sustainability by making the Policy publicly accessible through its official website and internal communication platforms. The Policy is formally communicated to all faculties, departments, administrative units, suppliers, contractors, and external partners to ensure shared understanding and compliance with its principles and requirements.

BSU organizes regular awareness programs, workshops, seminars, and training sessions for students, academic staff, and administrative personnel to promote responsible consumption, ethical procurement, waste reduction, and sustainable resource use. These initiatives aim to build knowledge, encourage behavioral change, and strengthen institutional accountability.

Student-led initiatives and volunteer activities play a central role in advancing sustainability across campus. Environmental campaigns, recycling drives, plastic reduction challenges, and hazardous waste collection programs actively engage the university community and reinforce the practical application of the Policy.

- The policy is publicly accessible through BSU's website and communicated to all departments, suppliers, and partners.
- Awareness programmes, workshops, and student-led initiatives promote sustainable practices across the university community.



Awareness

Baku State University (BSU) emphasizes creating a strong culture of awareness regarding sustainability, ethical sourcing, and responsible resource use and recognizes that for its policies to be effective, all students, staff, suppliers, and community partners must understand and actively participate in sustainability initiatives. Awareness efforts are designed to ensure that everyone in the University community knows their role in supporting environmentally responsible, socially equitable, and ethically sound practices.

BSU conducts regular educational campaigns, including workshops, seminars, and webinars, to inform students, faculty, and staff about sustainable practices such as ethical sourcing, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and responsible resource management. Sustainability is also integrated into the academic curriculum, allowing students to engage with practical projects, research, and case studies that reinforce environmentally conscious behaviors. Special campaigns are organized during international observances like “Plastic-Free July,” Earth Day, and World Environment Day to highlight key sustainability goals and encourage campus-wide participation.

The University communicates these initiatives through multiple channels. Sustainability updates, reports, and guidelines are published on BSU’s website, intranet portals, and newsletters. Social media platforms, digital signage, and campus noticeboards are also used to share timely information about ongoing projects, events, and best practices. BSU ensures that communication materials are accessible to all members of the community, using clear infographics, videos, and brochures that explain sustainable practices in an engaging and understandable way. Student engagement is a central part of BSU’s awareness strategy. Students are encouraged to lead initiatives and volunteer programs that promote ethical sourcing, waste segregation, recycling, and energy conservation. The University also partners with local communities, schools, and NGOs to extend awareness campaigns beyond the campus, fostering environmental stewardship in society. Competitions, innovation challenges, and hands-on projects provide opportunities for students to



develop creative solutions to sustainability challenges while reinforcing practical learning.

Staff and suppliers are also engaged through dedicated training programs and orientation sessions. Administrative, academic, and technical staff receive targeted training to ensure consistent understanding and application of sustainability policies. Suppliers and contractors are included in awareness programs so that their operations align with BSU's ethical and environmental standards. This ensures that sustainability principles extend throughout the University's supply chain.

Finally, BSU monitors the effectiveness of its awareness programs through surveys, feedback mechanisms, and participation metrics. Feedback from participants informs improvements in program content and delivery methods, while assessments of behavior change help evaluate the impact of awareness initiatives on the University's sustainability culture.



University recognizes that higher education institutions play a vital role in shaping social values, influencing future leaders, and promoting environmentally responsible development. BSU ensures that sustainability becomes a core institutional value rather than a standalone initiative, also strives to serve as a model for responsible institutional management within Azerbaijan's higher education sector. Measurable targets, stakeholder collaboration, and innovative sustainability initiatives, the University demonstrates that academic excellence and environmental responsibility



can progress together. Ultimately, BSU's approach reflects a deep respect for people, the environment, and future generations. By fostering a culture of responsibility and conscious resource use, the University contributes to the broader global effort toward sustainable development while strengthening its role as a socially responsible and forward-looking academic institution.

