

Sungayit State University



SUNGAYIT STATE
UNIVERSITY

REPORT ON SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

13 CLIMATE
ACTION





The report highlights the comprehensive efforts of Sumgayit State University in shaping a sustainable future for generations to come.

The University publishes Climate Action and Sustainability Policy, Sustainable Procurement Policy, Sustainable Investment Policy, Sustainability Policy on Donations and Funding; conducts annual dedicated trainings covering the natural components of environment; offers the programs (majors) on environmental sustainability at undergraduate and graduate levels; has research laboratories which are functioning with a specific focus on environmental sustainability; monitors and reports its total Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, implements different projects on climate change, etc.





POLICY DOCUMENTS

Sumgayit State University publishes policy documents on different directions

Climate Action and Sustainability Policy contributes to the analysis of the causes of climate change, the ways to overcome the existing problem, to assess environmental education.

Sustainable Procurement Policy creates proper framework which all procurement activities will lead to greater sustainability. It is the policy of the SSU to constantly improve its approach to understanding and accepting appropriate responsibility for any negative environmental, social and economic impacts of its procurement.

Sustainable Investment Policy ensures that the University's investments are managed in order to achieve a clean environment and a healthy future;

Sustainability Policy on Donations and Funding outlines the principles guiding the acceptance and management of donations, emphasizing the importance of ethical practices, transparency, and sustainability in fundraising efforts.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Sustainable Development Center was created with the aim of promoting the application of sustainable development principles at Sumgayit State University, public education and information in the field of sustainable development, conducting work in the direction of expanding industry-university relations, and implementing various teaching, research and projects.

The Center is responsible for organizing educational events, trainings on sustainability topics like climate change, waste management, SDGs; Working with academic departments to integrate sustainability into the curriculum across disciplines; collaborating with local organizations, businesses, and municipalities to extend sustainability efforts beyond the campus; Providing students with opportunities to volunteer for sustainability-focused projects on and off-campus.





Dedicated Trainings on Environmental Aspects of Sustainability

The University's Sustainable Development Committee conducts annual dedicated trainings covering the natural components of environment in order to achieve the goals of Sustainable Development. The trainings are held on Climate change, Creation of green energy resources, Ensuring efficient use of water resources, Waste management, Sustainable development of ecology in Azerbaijan, Effective management of plastic waste, Priority directions for the restoration and development of agriculture.





Sustainability literacy and knowledge assessment survey

The aim of the survey is to assess sustainability literacy and knowledge, the level of awareness, comprehension, and proficiency of the students and academic staff of Sumgayit State University in sustainable practices and principles.

The survey is shared on the official website of the university and is responded by the academic staff and students. In this way, information about sustainability literacy in the university is obtained, strengths and weaknesses are revealed.





MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL SUSTANABILITY NETWORKS

AASHE Membership - Sumgayit State University demonstrates its strong commitment to advancing sustainability and environmental responsibility through its active memberships in prominent global organizations. As a proud member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the university aligns with international sustainability standards, ensuring that its practices contribute to a more sustainable future.

CANIE Membership – The University is also a member of Climate Action Network for International Educators and demonstrates the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility, as well as reaffirms its commitment to actively participating in international climate initiatives and contributing to the country's sustainable development strategy.





EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sumgayit State University offers the following programs (majors) on environmental sustainability which are linked to European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to prepare students for careers in the field and empower them to make a positive impact on the planet:

- at undergraduate level: Environmental engineering, Ecology;**
- at graduate level: Environmental protection engineering and efficient use of natural resources.**





Sustainable development occupies an important place in the educational philosophy of SSU. So, the provision of sustainable development is put forward as one of the main priorities in the Strategic Development Plan. In the educational process, the university inculcates social, economic and environmental knowledge and values in accordance with the goals of sustainable development. Teaching content related to sustainable development in educational programs, activities in the direction of accepting various projects and volunteering programs allow to achieve the set goals. It aims to train students not only to be experts in their fields, but also to be individuals who are useful to society and respect the environment.





RESEARCH LABORATORIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SSU has 3 research laboratories which are functioning with a specific focus on environmental sustainability: - Ecology; - Effective use of natural resources; - Industrial Ecology. Undergraduate and graduate students learn how to take a sample from the soil, make a cut, conduct analysis, etc. Also, Innovation and Creativity Center is a center that ensures the implementation of scientific research in different fields including environmental sustainability and ecology, the application of its results, the production and commercialization of high-quality startup products.





MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING OF CARBON EMISSIONS

SSU is committed to transparency and accountability in our efforts to mitigate climate change. In accordance with our commitment to sustainability, the University rigorously monitors and reports its total Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, exemplified by figures of 825 tonnes (tCO₂e) in 2022 and 732 tonnes (tCO₂e) in 2023, 659 tonnes (tCO₂e) in 2024 reflecting our ongoing efforts to quantify and mitigate direct emissions from sources such as on-campus fossil fuel combustion (Scope 1) and indirect emissions from purchased electricity (Scope 2).

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STUDENT LED CLUBS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



ECOCLUB was established for the purpose of enhancing environmental knowledge among students, carrying out ecological restoration works at SSU, planting trees, holding ecological clarity campaigns, and challenging students in environmental projects and events, environmental protection, activities etc. The following activities are carried out by Ecodub:

- Conducting scientific practical seminars, webinars and events according to the calendar days
- Holding eco-painting exhibitions;
- Organization of excursions to industrial enterprises;
- Carrying out ecological clarity by the sea in Sumgait territory;
- Conducting debates on environmental issues;
- Excursions to national parks with Ecodub members.

Also, various student clubs on Sustainability operate at SSU under the Excellence Center.





Sumgayit State University cooperates with Oxford University on Climate Change

The global competition "Climate Change Challenge" organized by Oxford University (Saïd Business School) is being implemented this year with the support of Sumgayit State University.

The main goal of the competition is to involve young people aged 15-18 and general education teachers in the development of practical solutions for the elimination of major climate problems such as air pollution, extreme weather conditions, water scarcity, food security and loss of biodiversity, and to develop creativity and critical thinking among participants.





Advancing Climate Action through Sustainable Food Services at Sumgayit State University

Canteens operate in all 3 educational buildings of Sumgayit State University. The University offers affordable food options on campus canteens compared to restaurants and cafes in the city.

The university canteens contribute to SDG 13 Climate Action through several sustainable practices. They prioritize locally sourced, organic ingredients, reducing the carbon footprint associated with food transportation. Additionally, the canteens have implemented waste reduction strategies such as food composting and recycling, which help minimize landfill emissions. Energy-efficient appliances and the use of renewable energy sources further support their commitment to climate action, while sustainable packaging practices, including biodegradable and recyclable materials, reduce single-use plastic waste.



SSU's PROJECTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Sumgayit State University has undertaken several initiatives addressing climate change. One notable project, titled 'Clean Fertilizer! Clean Food! Healthy Life!', focuses on waste reduction and repurposing by developing eco-friendly fertilizers derived from the excretions of earthworms. The project aims to promote a healthier environment through sustainable waste management and the production of natural fertilizers.

SSU is a partner in Erasmus+ REFRESH project "Green and Sustainable Global Economic Development in Azerbaijan Universities: Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation" which aims to improve the transition to green energy in Azerbaijan by increasing awareness in the field of renewable energy, and to increase the capacity of universities by improving teaching methodologies and course programs.

