



SUMGAYIT STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# **REPORT ON SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES





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# Introduction

This report highlights Sumgayit State University's (SDU) ongoing initiatives and contributions towards Sustainable Cities and Communities.



Sumgait State University (SDU) is a higher education institution operating in Sumgait, one of the industrial cities of Azerbaijan, and provides students with extensive knowledge in various fields through its educational programs. The university's mission is to prepare specialists who will contribute to industry, technology, and social development with a multidisciplinary approach. SDU also implements various projects in the direction of ensuring socially responsible and sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

The concept of sustainable cities and communities is the 11th goal of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and aims to achieve the economic, social and environmental sustainable development of cities. This goal is of particular importance for solving problems related to urbanization, protecting the environment and improving the living conditions of the urban population.



As the process of urbanization accelerates in the world, the population density in cities and the standards of living conditions are also changing. Environmental and social problems arise as a result of urban expansion and population growth. One of these problems is related to environmental pollution, waste of natural resources, and inefficient management methods. Sustainable development issues are of particular importance in Azerbaijan, especially in regions such as Sumgait and Baku, which are industrial cities. Sumgayit State University seeks practical solutions for sustainable cities and communities with both teaching and research activities in this direction.



# The Importance of Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sustainable cities and communities are described as an urban model that is compatible with the environment, based on the efficient use of resources and the application of clean energy. This model ensures that the development of cities is economically, ecologically and socially sustainable.

## Sustainable city models

### Ecological Environment

Protects the environment by implementing methods such as increasing green areas, using clean energy, waste management and recycling.

### Social Justice

It achieves social justice and community integration by improving the living conditions of the urban population.

### Economic Efficiency

Supports efficient and sustainable management of urban infrastructure, ensures economical use of transport, energy and water resources.



# Activities of Sumgayit State University on Sustainable Cities and Communities

## Environmental Studies and Pollution Abatement

At Sumgayit State University, environmental research is conducted especially in the fields of environmental pollution, air quality, soil protection and industrial waste management. University researchers are studying the impact of harmful substances released into the environment from the industrial areas of Sumgait and are working on ways to reduce them. For example, efforts are being made to increase the sustainability of urban ecosystems with environmental innovations in waste management and recovery. The data obtained as a result of these studies contribute to the application of sustainable urban models in the city of Sumgait.



# Sustainable Transport Solutions and Urban Planning

The university conducts research in the field of sustainable management of urban transport and urban planning. Because sustainable transportation systems are important to the health of urban populations, university researchers support measures such as increasing the use of public transportation, creating bike lanes, and reducing car use. In urban planning, these types of measures aim to reduce the city's carbon footprint and protect public health. Within the framework of some projects implemented in Sumgait, the issue of optimization of the urban transport system is analyzed.





# Behavior Change and Community Awareness Programs



SSU social researchers emphasize the importance of behavioral changes at the community level for the development of sustainable cities and implement projects in this direction. For example, seminars are organized on topics such as saving water, reducing energy consumption, and keeping the environment clean. These seminars create conditions for the formation of environmental behavior models among students and the city population and increase awareness in this field.



# Social Development and Education in an Urban Community

Accessible education for all, which is one of the main goals of the development of sustainable cities and communities, is one of the main principles of Sumgayit State University. here, the quality of education, social integration of students and application of inclusive education principles are of great importance. The activity of the university related to the inclusive approach is aimed not only at improving the quality of education, but also at providing opportunities for students with different social and physical characteristics to study under equal conditions. students participate in various Olympiads, training and events, industrial practices, etc. they participate.



# Energy Efficiency Renovation

Sumgayit State University  
and promotion of  
research carried out  
of effective applica-





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## Tools to promote a sustainable lifestyle

A memorandum was signed on the use of "StudentPlus" cards, a tool that promotes the continuous development of the university. These cards will help students make their lifestyles more sustainable by offering various benefits related to both education and city life. Thus, an agreement has been reached with more than 200 companies to give special discounts to students in shopping centers and various catering facilities, which students use the most. With this card, students will get special discounts in Museums, galleries and exhibition halls, and at the same time, they will be able to carry out many bank transactions comfortably.





## University-industry cooperation

The university is surrounded by the largest and most prestigious industrial enterprises of the country. According to the results of the survey on University-industry cooperation, a number of factors such as bureaucratic, financial, ineffective communication cooperation, insufficient industry-oriented research opportunities stand in the way of the University's ability to establish close cooperation with industrial enterprises. In order to solve such problems, more effective communication channels should be formed, events and meetings should be organized regularly, joint research centers or laboratories should be established, scientific research and improvement projects should be implemented at the university, and at the same time experts from the industry should be involved in the teaching process.



# Future Perspectives and Recommendations

Green Infrastructure	Research and education on green roofs, sustainable water management, energy efficient buildings and the integration of green spaces into urban landscapes.
Sustainable Mobility	Promoting the adoption of public transport systems, bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and electric vehicles
Waste Management	Developing innovative solutions for waste reduction, recycling and creating a circular economy in Sumgait and other cities.
Climate Resilience	Studying the impacts of climate change and developing strategies to increase the resilience of urban infrastructure to extreme weather events, floods and other climate-related challenges.
Political propaganda	Active participation of SSU professors and researchers in discussions on sustainable urban policy, both in Sumgayit and at the national level. Through policy information, publications and participation in international conferences, the university influences the development of policies that promote sustainable cities and communities.
Knowledge Sharing	To hold seminars, forums and conferences that bring together experts, local government representatives and citizens to discuss solutions to achieve sustainability in Sumgayit University and other cities of Azerbaijan.

# The result

Sumgayit State University carries out important activities for Azerbaijan in the field of sustainable cities and communities. The research and implemented projects here aim to improve the urban environment, increase green infrastructure, and influence the environmental behavior of the urban population. The activity of the university in this field serves the sustainable development of the urban ecosystems of Azerbaijan, the efficient use of resources, and the improvement of the quality of life of the population.

The development of sustainable cities and communities is essential for both protecting public health and ensuring environmental and economic sustainability. Expanding SSU's activities in the field of sustainable development can greatly contribute to building a greener and sustainable future for the country.

