



**SUMGAYIT STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Climate Action and Sustainability Policy

**Sumgayit State University
2022–2030**

Approved by the Scientific Council of Sumgayit State University on 19 September 2022; updated March 2026

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1. Purpose and Principles

Sumgayit State University (SSU) recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. As a higher education institution, the University plays an important role in advancing knowledge, innovation, and responsible environmental practices.

The Climate Action and Sustainability Policy establishes the University's commitment to:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- promoting sustainable resource management
- integrating sustainability into education and research
- supporting environmental protection and biodiversity
- contributing to global efforts to combat climate change

This policy aims to create a **sustainable and environmentally responsible campus community** and to support national and international climate goals.

2. Legal and Strategic Framework

The Climate Action and Sustainability Policy is implemented in accordance with:

- Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Environmental Protection
- Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources
- Land Code and Water Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Kyoto Protocol
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) guidelines

The policy is also aligned with the strategic priorities and Charter of Sumgayit State University.

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3. Current Sustainability Context

Sumgayit State University has already undertaken a range of initiatives related to sustainability and climate action.

International and Institutional Cooperation

The University collaborates with national and international institutions to promote sustainability research, knowledge exchange, and joint environmental initiatives.

These partnerships strengthen academic cooperation and contribute to the development of global sustainability solutions.

Sustainability Research and Innovation

Research activities within the University focus on areas such as:

- solid waste management

- renewable and alternative energy sources
- efficient use of water resources
- restoration of soil fertility
- environmental protection in post-conflict territories
- ecological technologies and green innovation

Seminars, conferences, workshops, and training programs help students and faculty develop knowledge and practical skills related to environmental sustainability.

Carbon Emissions Monitoring

The University monitors its greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with international methodologies.

Recorded emissions include:

- **2022:** 825 tCO₂e
- **2023:** 732 tCO₂e
- **2024:** 659 tCO₂e

These measurements include:

- Scope 1 emissions (direct emissions from on-campus fuel use)
- Scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions from purchased electricity)

The University follows the **GHG Protocol Corporate Standard** for measuring and reporting emissions.

4. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all University activities, including:

- campus operations
- academic programs and research
- infrastructure and facilities management
- procurement and resource management
- student activities and engagement
- community outreach and partnerships

All University staff, students, and stakeholders are expected to contribute to the implementation of this policy.

5. Climate Action and Sustainability Objectives

The University's climate action strategy supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and includes both short-term and long-term objectives.

Short-Term Goals (by 2025)

- integrate sustainability principles into teacher education programs

- establish an active student sustainability eco-club
- organize international academic events focused on climate change
- improve awareness and education related to environmental sustainability

Long-Term Goals (by 2035)

- develop carbon-neutral campus infrastructure
- increase the use of environmentally friendly building materials
- improve campus water management and conservation systems
- promote active participation of the University community in sustainability initiatives

Long-Term Climate Commitment (by 2050)

The University aims to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward becoming a **Net-Zero University by 2050**.

6. Key Areas of Action

Energy and Emissions Reduction

SSU aims to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through:

- energy efficiency improvements
- modern building standards
- improved campus infrastructure
- transitioning to low-carbon technologies

A target of **35% reduction in energy consumption and emissions by 2035** has been established.

Renewable Energy

The University plans to increase the use of renewable energy sources through:

- installation of solar panels
- development of alternative energy systems
- expansion of renewable energy projects

The goal is to provide **40% of campus electricity from renewable sources by 2050**.

Sustainable Water Management

The University aims to:

- reduce water consumption by **30% by 2025**
- improve irrigation systems
- develop wastewater reuse solutions

- promote water conservation practices across campus
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Sustainable Waste Management

Waste reduction initiatives include:

- recycling programs
 - composting organic waste
 - innovative waste treatment solutions
 - research on waste reuse and environmental remediation
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Sustainable Campus Development

Campus infrastructure development will prioritize:

- energy-efficient buildings
 - green spaces and biodiversity protection
 - sustainable construction materials
 - environmentally responsible land management
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7. Implementation and Institutional Responsibilities

The successful implementation of this policy requires participation from all University units.

University Leadership

University leadership is responsible for:

- integrating sustainability into institutional strategies
- supporting sustainability initiatives and projects
- allocating necessary resources

Academic Units

Academic departments will:

- integrate sustainability into teaching and research
- encourage interdisciplinary environmental research
- support sustainability education.

Administrative Units

Administrative units will:

- implement sustainable operational practices
- monitor environmental performance
- support environmental management initiatives.

8. Research, Education, and Student Engagement

Students and faculty members play a key role in advancing sustainability.

The University will promote:

- sustainability research projects
- environmental education programs
- student-led sustainability initiatives
- eco-clubs and environmental awareness campaigns

Students are encouraged to actively participate in sustainability activities both on and off campus.

9. Partnerships and Community Engagement

The University collaborates with:

- national and international universities
- research institutions
- governmental organizations
- non-governmental organizations
- industry partners

These partnerships help expand sustainability research, improve environmental management practices, and strengthen community engagement.

10. Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation

The **Climate Change Committee** is responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress related to this policy.

The committee will:

- track greenhouse gas emissions
- evaluate sustainability performance
- prepare periodic monitoring reports
- recommend improvements to climate action strategies

Monitoring ensures transparency and accountability in achieving sustainability goals.

11. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The University contributes to several **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, including:

- **SDG 4:** Quality Education
- **SDG 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation

- **SDG 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy
- **SDG 13:** Climate Action
- **SDG 17:** Partnerships for the Goals

By integrating sustainability into education, research, and campus operations, SSU contributes to global sustainable development efforts.

12. Resources and Funding

Implementation of sustainability initiatives requires financial and institutional support.

Funding sources may include:

- national and international research grants
- sustainability projects and partnerships
- government programs
- institutional funding

These resources support the successful implementation of the University's climate action strategy.

13. Policy Authority and Review

This policy is approved by the governing bodies of Sumgayit State University.

The policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with:

- national legislation
 - international environmental standards
 - the University's sustainability goals
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14. List of Abbreviations

- **UN** – United Nations
- **SDG** – Sustainable Development Goals
- **GHG** – Greenhouse Gases
- **SSU** – Sumgayit State University
- **UNFCCC** – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **UNEP** – United Nations Environment Programme