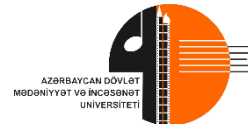




MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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Ministry of Science and Education Republic of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

Sustainable development policy of Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA)

Introduction

The document "Sustainable Development Policy (SDP) of Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA)" was prepared in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution No. A/RES/70/1 dated September 25, 2015, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities of Socio-Economic Development" and the Development Strategy of ASUCA for 2021-2030.

Objective

The country's sustainable development policy aims to ensure sustainability in the use of economic and human resources, taking into account the interests of current and future generations. ASUCA views sustainability as a top priority, striving to create a sustainable and inclusive university that meets the global requirements of the 21st century.

The objective of ASUCA's sustainable development policy is to create a comprehensive framework that promotes environmental management, social responsibility, and economic viability in the university community. The policy aims to integrate sustainable practices into all aspects of university operations, education, research, and community engagement. ASUCA strives to improve environmental

performance, promote social responsibility, support economic viability, integrate sustainability into education and research, and engage the university community. To promote actions and initiatives that support new models of growth and conscious lifestyle, the university identifies 5 areas by 2030 in which the main work on the implementation of sustainable development principles will be concentrated:

1. Transition to zero waste production and implementation of effective waste management solutions.

- A sustainable university will strive to minimize waste and manage it effectively, implementing zero waste production practices and developing recycling.

2. Increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

- Emphasis will be placed on the transition to renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and reduce the carbon footprint.

3. Raising awareness of sustainable development.

- The university will actively work to educate students and staff about the importance of sustainable development and implement its principles in everyday practice.

4. Implementation of new technologies in the educational process.

- Innovative technologies will be developed and implemented that will improve the quality of education and make it more accessible and flexible.

5. Sustainable transport.

- The University will develop sustainable transport initiatives, encouraging the use of environmentally friendly modes of transport and reducing the University's carbon footprint.

Scope

This document covers all students, academic and administrative staff, as well as guests and consultants involved in the educational and social activities of ASUCA. The

scope of the sustainability policy includes campus operations, academic programs, community engagement, procurement and supply chain, infrastructure, and buildings. Campus operations include energy management, water conservation, waste management, and sustainable transportation. Academic programs address curriculum development and research initiatives. Community engagement covers student outreach programs and participation. Procurement and supply chain focuses on sustainable purchasing and supplier engagement. Infrastructure and buildings emphasize green building standards and sustainable landscaping. By following this policy, ASUCA strives to become a leader in sustainability in higher education.

Principles

1. ASUCA supports the principle of open partnership with its staff, students and partners based on mutual respect and understanding.
 - The University values collaborative relationships and strives to create a community where all its members - staff, students and external partners - work together in harmony, respecting each other's opinion and contributions.
2. ASUCA is committed to high standards in everything it does, following ethical business practices and best corporate governance practices.
 - The University ensures that all its operations and decisions are conducted with integrity and accountability, in accordance with ethical norms and exemplary management standards.
3. ASUCA strictly adheres to the legislation of Azerbaijan and international laws.
 - Compliance with local and international laws and regulations is a fundamental principle of the University, ensuring the legality of all its actions and compliance with the necessary standards.
4. ASUCA supports increasing openness of information and transparency to disseminate knowledge on sustainable development issues in order to promote good practices and raise awareness within the University.

- The University is committed to being transparent and open in its sustainability efforts, sharing information and best practices to educate and engage the University community on these important issues.

5. ASUCA is working to improve the management system of all activities, applying digital and automated systems to improve labor efficiency.

- To improve operational efficiency, the University is implementing digital and automated solutions that simplify processes and increase the productivity of its workforce.

6. The University continuously identifies and assesses new risks, including external and internal risk factors.

- The University regularly assesses potential risks, both internal and external, to proactively manage and mitigate potential threats to its operations and stakeholders.

7. ASUCA is committed to reducing energy consumption, implementing energy-saving technologies, and investing in environmental projects and technologies to minimize energy consumption and reduce its carbon footprint.

- In pursuit of environmental sustainability, the University actively works to reduce energy consumption, use energy efficient technologies and invest in projects that reduce its overall carbon footprint.

8. Special assessment of working conditions is conducted periodically.

- Regular assessments of working conditions are conducted to ensure a safe, healthy and supportive environment for all employees and students.

9. ASUCA creates equal opportunities and conditions for the realization of the potential of all employees and students, based on common values, cultural diversity, gender, race and other aspects of equality.

- The University promotes inclusion and equal opportunities for all, creating an environment in which all individuals, regardless of their background, can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Policy

1. Provide opportunities that promote and support participation in the educational process.

- The University is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment that encourages students to actively engage in the learning process, participate in discussions and make use of learning resources.

2. Support vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities and those in financial difficulties, during their studies.

- The University is committed to providing additional resources and support to students facing physical, financial or social challenges, ensuring they have equal access to education and opportunities for success.

3. Develop mental health programs for staff and students.

- Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, the University will develop and implement programs and services to support the mental health of both students and staff, offering counselling, workshops and stress management resources.

4. Implement policies to support employment, training and regulation.

- The University will establish policies that promote employability, provide vocational training and comply with relevant regulations, helping students move from study to employment.

5. Provide well-structured and supported bursaries, grants and financial aid to students.

- Financial support will be provided through well-structured bursaries, grants and other forms of financial aid to help students pay for their studies and reduce economic barriers.

6. Monitor employment outcomes and workload management.

- The University will monitor graduate employment outcomes and manage teaching loads for faculty to ensure a balanced and effective educational environment that benefits both students and staff.

7. Create a stable and flexible infrastructure with minimal environmental impact.

- The University will design and maintain infrastructure that is resilient, adaptive and environmentally sustainable, reducing its environmental footprint and contributing to long-term sustainability.

8. Improve existing buildings, increase resource efficiency, and adopt green technologies.

- Efforts will be made to upgrade and improve current buildings to make them more energy efficient and environmentally friendly, incorporating green technologies and practices to conserve resources.

9. Ensure a safe campus for people and the environment.

- Ensuring the safety and well-being of the university community and the environment is a priority, with measures to prevent hazards and promote a healthy and safe campus environment.

10. Develop strategies and a culture that supports the development, maintenance, and strengthening of partnerships both domestically and internationally.

- The University will foster a culture of collaboration by building and maintaining partnerships with other educational institutions, organizations, and stakeholders both domestically and internationally, enhancing its educational and research capabilities.

Monitoring and reporting

The ASUCA Sustainable Development Policy will be regularly reviewed and updated. Progress reports will be published on the University's website to ensure transparency and accountability. All stakeholders will be involved in the process of evaluating and improving the policy to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the University and society.