



Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate Action Report

Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA) has actively engaged in climate action and environmental sustainability through various educational programs, events, and collaborations with local and international organizations. The university has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing climate change, integrating these concerns into its academic activities and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students, faculty, and the wider community.

Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change

On the occasion of the 29th session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29), the Faculty of Cultural Studies at ASUCA, in collaboration with the Department of Social and Political Sciences, organized a roundtable titled "The Role of the Green World in Sustainable Development." This event was an essential platform for discussing the global implications of climate change and the importance of sustainable practices in various sectors, including the arts and culture industries. The roundtable emphasized the intersection between climate action and cultural preservation, highlighting the need for a green approach to cultural projects and initiatives. These discussions are part of ASUCA's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and engage students in the broader global conversation on climate action.

Another meeting was held at the SOCAR Baku Higher Oil School (BANM) with representatives from 20 Azerbaijani universities that are members of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN). The meeting was attended by the Rector of Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA), Professor Ceyran Mahmudova, and the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Associate Professor Nizami Asadov. The Rector of BANM, Elmar Qasimov, expressed his pleasure in hosting the event and emphasized the importance of fulfilling the responsibilities of university representatives under the UN Climate Change Framework Convention's COP29. Speeches were made by the BSUN President and Rector of Bucharest University, Marian Preda, along with several other officials, including the Head of the International Cooperation Department at the State Agency for Science and Higher Education, Müjdat Hasanov, and the Ambassador of Romania to Azerbaijan, Vasile Soare. A presentation on the activities of BSUN was given, focusing on efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. The proposal to organize a COP29 event within BSUN was discussed, and detailed information about the 16th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region was shared.¹

Training and Article Publication

To further the dialogue on the role of the arts in climate change mitigation, ASUCA's expert in Creative Project Management led a training session with the students of the SABAH

¹ <https://admiu.edu.az/qara-d%99niz-universiteti%99r-s%99b%99k%99sinin-numay%99nd%99-hey%99ti-banm-d%99/>

Center's Department of Artistic Creativity and Screenwriting. The training focused on the topic "COP29 and the Arts," examining how cultural initiatives can contribute to climate action.

Following the training, students wrote articles that were subsequently published in an international conference, showcasing the integration of climate change discussions into creative fields. This initiative helped highlight the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing global challenges, encouraging students to use their creativity to advocate for environmental causes.

International Conference on Environmental Awareness

ASUCA also contributed to international climate dialogue through its participation in the "Green Shusha – Green World" project, organized by the Youth Foundation of Azerbaijan and the "ELM" Public Union. On October 26, an international conference was held as part of this initiative, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and climate change action. ASUCA's involvement in such conferences illustrates its commitment to fostering youth participation in global environmental issues, providing a platform for students and academics to discuss innovative solutions and strategies for sustainable development.

On December 10, 2024 at the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts will be held the International scientific-theoretical conference "Contribution of culture to ecological sustainability" dedicated to the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP29.

The papers presented at the conference, after careful review, have been accepted, registered, and will be published as a post-proceedings collection by Atlantis Press. Atlantis Press, a part of Springer Nature, is a global open publisher of scientific, technical, and medical (STM) content, founded in Paris in 2006. <https://cces2024.com/>

COP29-Related Campus Activities

In line with ASUCA's commitment to promoting climate action, the university organized several activities related to COP29. One notable initiative was a university-wide meeting to discuss a comprehensive action plan for upcoming events centered around green initiatives, ecology, and climate action. The plan focused on making ASUCA a more sustainable campus, with special attention to creating environmentally friendly educational programs, projects, and practices. These discussions and the resulting strategies aim to enhance the university's role in promoting environmental sustainability, ensuring that the institution aligns with global standards for climate action.



“Gümüş Nar” Festival – COP29 Project²

ASUCA’s Faculty of Fine Arts organized a significant cultural event, the “Gümüş Nar” Festival, as part of the COP29 project. The festival, which marks its sixth year, was notably centered around climate change awareness, reflecting ASUCA’s commitment to incorporating environmental themes into cultural expressions. The open-air exhibition, held by the students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, showcased artworks that raised awareness of climate change and the need for action.



This year’s festival, under the framework of COP29, incorporated discussions and artworks highlighting the intersections of art and climate action. The festival not only provided a creative outlet for students to express their environmental concerns but also allowed the university community—including faculty, students, and media representatives—to engage in meaningful dialogue on sustainability.

ASUCA’s Rector, attended the festival and emphasized the significant role of the arts in addressing global climate issues.

She noted that this year’s “Gümüş Nar” Festival represented a shift towards more climate-focused initiatives, marking the university’s ongoing commitment to sustainable development.

Green Campus and Future Initiatives

As part of its broader sustainability strategy, ASUCA continues to prioritize the integration of green practices into its campus and curriculum. The university is taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance its environmental education programs. Discussions during the meetings focused on implementing green campus strategies, such as reducing waste, conserving energy, and promoting sustainable practices across all university operations. ASUCA also aims to expand its efforts in climate education, creating a more sustainable university environment that encourages both students and staff to take proactive measures in environmental conservation.



² <https://admiu.edu.az/en%c9%99n%c9%99vi-gumus-nar-festivali-cop29-layih%c9%99sin%c9%99-h%c9%99sr-olunub/>

Education programs and academic activite on climate action

Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA) integrates environmental literacy and climate action into its arts, culture, and social sciences courses. By embedding sustainability-focused topics into the curriculum, the university aims to raise awareness and equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address global environmental challenges. These subjects are incorporated across various disciplines, including arts and culture, to promote a deeper understanding of the role these fields can play in supporting environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, ASUCA actively participates in the Greenmetric World University Rankings, a global initiative that evaluates universities on their environmental performance. Through this participation, the university aligns its policies with international standards and best practices in sustainability. This commitment reflects ASUCA's dedication to advancing environmental protection and climate action, both within its educational programs and operational practices.

