

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) Climate Action Policy

1. Introduction

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) recognizes the critical role that higher education institutions play in addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability. As a forward-thinking institution, ATU is committed to integrating climate action into its operations, research, teaching, and community engagement. This policy aligns with the global objectives of **SDG 13: Climate Action**, which emphasizes the need to take urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts.

This Climate Action Policy outlines ATU's strategies to reduce its carbon footprint, enhance sustainability practices, and contribute to climate resilience both within the university and in the wider community.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- **Promote environmental sustainability** across all university operations.
- **Reduce ATU's carbon footprint** and achieve long-term carbon neutrality.
- **Integrate climate action into teaching, research, and community activities** to foster climate literacy and innovative solutions.
- **Engage the ATU community**—students, staff, faculty, and partners—in taking action against climate change.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students, staff, faculty, and administrators of ATU.
- All university-owned or -operated facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, administrative offices, and dormitories.
- All university-affiliated activities, including research, procurement, travel, and partnerships.

4. Climate Commitments and Goals

4.1 Carbon Neutrality

ATU is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. To meet this goal, the university will:

- Implement energy efficiency measures across all buildings.

- Increase the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind power, on campus.
- Invest in green infrastructure, including sustainable building designs and technologies.

4.2 Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

ATU will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 through:

- Reducing energy consumption via energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems.
- Promoting sustainable transportation options for students and staff, such as cycling, public transportation, and carpooling.
- Minimizing air travel for university business and encouraging virtual meetings whenever possible.

4.3 Sustainable Procurement

ATU will adopt a sustainable procurement policy that prioritizes products and services with low environmental impact, including:

- Procuring eco-friendly, energy-efficient equipment and supplies.
- Engaging with suppliers who meet environmental and social responsibility criteria.

4.4 Waste Reduction and Recycling

The University will implement a comprehensive waste management strategy to:

- Reduce overall waste generation by 30% by 2030.
- Increase recycling rates through the placement of recycling bins on campus and the promotion of zero-waste practices.
- Reduce plastic use by banning single-use plastics in campus facilities and events.

5. Climate Action in Education and Research

5.1 Curriculum Integration

ATU will incorporate climate change and environmental sustainability into its curriculum to prepare students to be future leaders in climate action. This includes:

- Offering degree programs and courses focused on climate science, renewable energy, sustainable development, and environmental policy.
- Providing interdisciplinary learning opportunities that link climate action with engineering, technology, economics, and social sciences.

5.2 Research for Climate Solutions

ATU is dedicated to supporting research aimed at addressing the challenges of climate change. Key research areas include:

- Development of renewable energy technologies.
- Studies on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

- Research on sustainable agriculture and food security, contributing to **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** by promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices.

ATU encourages collaboration with industry, government, and international organizations to promote innovation in climate science and solutions.

6. Community Engagement and Outreach

6.1 Student and Staff Engagement

ATU aims to foster a culture of sustainability within the university community by:

- Promoting environmental awareness campaigns and sustainability-focused events.
- Encouraging student-led initiatives that address climate change on campus and in the broader community.
- Providing opportunities for staff and students to participate in climate-related volunteer activities.

6.2 Collaboration with External Partners

ATU will collaborate with governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and businesses to advance climate action goals. This includes:

- Partnering with local governments to support urban sustainability and climate resilience efforts.
- Engaging in national and international climate action networks to share knowledge and best practices.

6.3 Public Awareness Campaigns

As part of its commitment to **SDG 13**, ATU will lead and participate in public campaigns that raise awareness of climate change and promote sustainable practices. The university will leverage its social media presence on platforms like Facebook and Instagram to reach a wider audience.

7. Sustainable Campus Operations

7.1 Energy and Water Efficiency

ATU will improve energy and water efficiency in all its facilities by:

- Conducting regular energy audits to identify and implement energy-saving measures.
- Installing water-saving technologies such as low-flow faucets, toilets, and rainwater harvesting systems.

7.2 Green Infrastructure

The University will develop and maintain green spaces that support biodiversity, improve air quality, and contribute to climate resilience. This includes:

- Planting more trees and creating green spaces around campus.

- Installing green roofs and walls to enhance insulation and reduce energy consumption.

7.3 Sustainable Transportation

ATU is committed to promoting sustainable transportation options by:

- Providing bicycle parking and promoting cycling among students and staff.
- Collaborating with local transport authorities to enhance public transportation access to the university.
- Supporting electric vehicle infrastructure, including charging stations.

8. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

8.1 Campus Resilience Planning

ATU will develop a climate resilience plan to ensure that the university can adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events. The plan will focus on:

- Protecting critical infrastructure from climate-related risks.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness and response systems to ensure the safety and well-being of the university community.

8.2 Research on Climate Adaptation

The University will prioritize research that addresses climate adaptation challenges specific to Azerbaijan, such as:

- Developing technologies and policies that support water conservation and drought resilience.
- Conducting studies on the impact of climate change on the Caspian Sea region, particularly in terms of biodiversity and coastal management.

9. Monitoring, Reporting, and Accountability

9.1 Performance Tracking

ATU will monitor its progress toward achieving its climate action goals through regular data collection and reporting. Key performance indicators (KPIs) include:

- Reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions.
- Progress in waste reduction and recycling initiatives.
- Number of climate-related courses and research projects.

9.2 Annual Reporting

The University will publish an annual **Sustainability and Climate Action Report** that outlines progress, challenges, and future plans. This report will be made publicly available on the ATU website (www.sdg.atu.edu.az) and shared with stakeholders, including students, staff, alumni, and external partners.

9.3 Governance

The implementation of this policy will be overseen by the **Sustainability and Climate Action Committee**, which will include representatives from the university's administration, faculty, staff, and student body. This committee will be responsible for ensuring that ATU's climate action goals are met and for coordinating initiatives across departments.

10. Conclusion

Azerbaijan Technological University is dedicated to being a leader in region in climate action and sustainability. Through this Climate Action Policy, ATU aims to reduce its environmental impact, contribute to global climate solutions, and empower its students, staff, and community to take meaningful action. By fostering a culture of sustainability and integrating climate action into every aspect of university life, ATU contributes to a more sustainable future for Azerbaijan and the world.