QS Sustainability Report

SDG 13: Climate Action

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU)

Submission-ready institutional narrative and evidence portfolio

Reporting period: January-December 2025

Prepared for QS Sustainability benchmarking and evidence review

Institution	Azerbaijan Technological University
Focus SDG	SDG 13 - Climate Action
Document type	Narrative report with evidence register, KPI dashboard, charts, and annex
Prepared on	12 April 2026

Prepared in academic English and organized to reflect the evidence categories most commonly valued in QS Sustainability submissions: environmental education, research and knowledge exchange, innovation, partnerships, outreach, and operational commitment.

Executive Summary

This report presents Azerbaijan Technological University's SDG 13 (Climate Action) activity during the 2025 calendar year in a structured format suitable for ranking documentation, institutional benchmarking, and evidence-led sustainability reporting. It consolidates climate-relevant university news from January to December 2025, filters out items that are not materially relevant to climate action, and reframes the resulting evidence into a coherent institutional narrative.

Across the reporting period, ATU demonstrated climate-action engagement through six mutually reinforcing channels: climate education and student capacity building; environmental and climate-focused seminars; green innovation and startup support; biodiversity and ecological awareness outreach; regional and corporate partnerships; and selected resilience- and infrastructure-related actions. The evidence base shows that climate action at ATU is currently driven less by carbon-accounting or net-zero operations and more by education, applied student engagement, technology-oriented innovation, and environmental awareness-building.

The strongest pieces of evidence in the portfolio are the GreenTech II startup competition, the environmental monitoring and green technologies training, student practice in ecological and greening environments, the Toyota Beyond Zero collaboration, biodiversity outreach activities, participation in regional Caspian ecosystem dialogue, and the development of the ATU smart electric car prototype. These activities show that ATU has begun to position climate action not only as a topic of awareness, but also as an area of applied problem-solving and institutional visibility.

At the same time, the portfolio reveals the next strategic step required for stronger future performance: ATU would benefit substantially from documenting a formal climate strategy, publishing net-zero or emissions-reduction commitments, reporting energy and emissions data, and consolidating climate-related research outputs under a dedicated sustainability governance framework. This report therefore includes both an evidence-based narrative of current strengths and a practical institutional strategy section to guide stronger future alignment with QS Sustainability expectations.

QS frames sustainability as evidence of a university's environmental, social and governance impact, while the Environmental Sustainability lens specifically considers strategy, operations, commitment, reporting and governance. This report therefore foregrounds visible

evidence that can be substantiated through news items, events, partnerships, innovation outputs and public-facing institutional actions.

Key portfolio messages

- ATU recorded 25 SDG 13-relevant public evidence items across 2025.
- The densest activity period was March-April 2025, driven by GreenTech II, environmental seminars and climate literacy events.
- Climate action at ATU is strongest in environmental education, student engagement, applied innovation, and awareness outreach.
- The portfolio includes at least one national-scale innovation competition, one cross-border ecosystem forum, one smart mobility prototype, and multiple biodiversity and environmental monitoring activities.
- The main improvement opportunity is to convert climate activity into a more formalized institutional strategy with measurable operational indicators.

Contents

1. Institutional Context and Reporting Approach

Azerbaijan Technological University is a regional higher education institution with a strong profile in engineering, food technologies, design, logistics, and applied industry collaboration. Within the sustainability agenda, the university's SDG 13 activity in 2025 is best understood as a developing ecosystem rather than a fully consolidated climate-governance model. The institution already has the building blocks of such a model: an Environmental Protection academic unit, an Eco Club, an Innovation Center, growing university-industry partnerships, and a visible practice of publishing environmental and technology-related university news.

The present report uses a strict inclusion rule. Only those public-facing activities that demonstrate a direct and material contribution to climate action, ecological sustainability, environmental awareness, climate-related innovation, or resilience-building are included. Items that were primarily about generic education, governance, employability, general innovation, or internationalization were excluded unless they had a clear climate or environmental dimension. This improves credibility for external reviewers and reduces the risk of over-claiming.

The report is evidence-led and based on publicly shared university news items supplied by the institution. It does not replace future quantitative environmental reporting. Instead, it organizes the 2025 evidence base into a more submission-ready structure. In this respect, it functions as both a ranking document and an internal management tool: it captures what has already been done, reveals where the strongest stories sit, and identifies which institutional gaps should be closed before the next submission cycle.

2. SDG 13 Performance Snapshot

2.1 KPI dashboard

25 SDG 13 evidence items	**5** Green innovation actions	**7** Education/capacity actions	**4** Community outreach actions
80 Teams in GreenTech II final	**30** Universities in GreenTech II	**10** Countries in ecology congress	**1** Smart electric car prototype

2 Operations/resilience actions	**2** Partnership platforms	**2** Biodiversity outreach events	**4** Periods with SDG 13 activity

Interpretation. The 2025 portfolio shows breadth of activity but uneven maturity across categories. The evidence is strongest in education, green innovation and public engagement, while operational climate commitments remain under-documented.

2.2 Visual overview

Figure 1. SDG 13 evidence items by reporting period

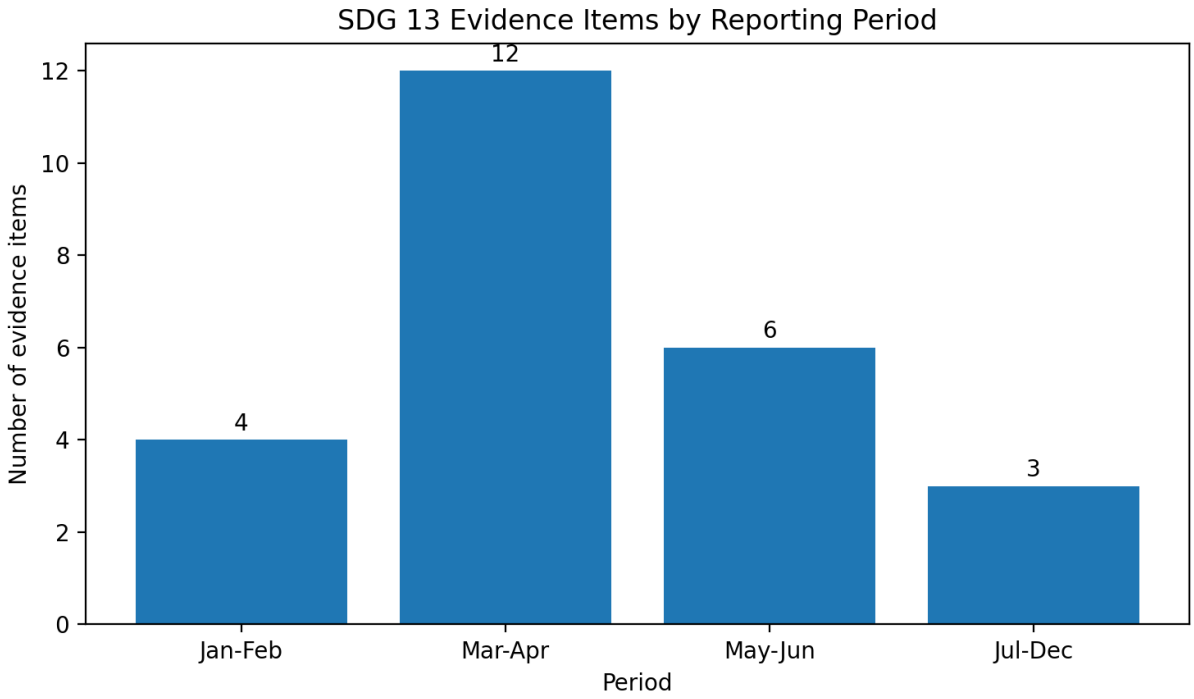
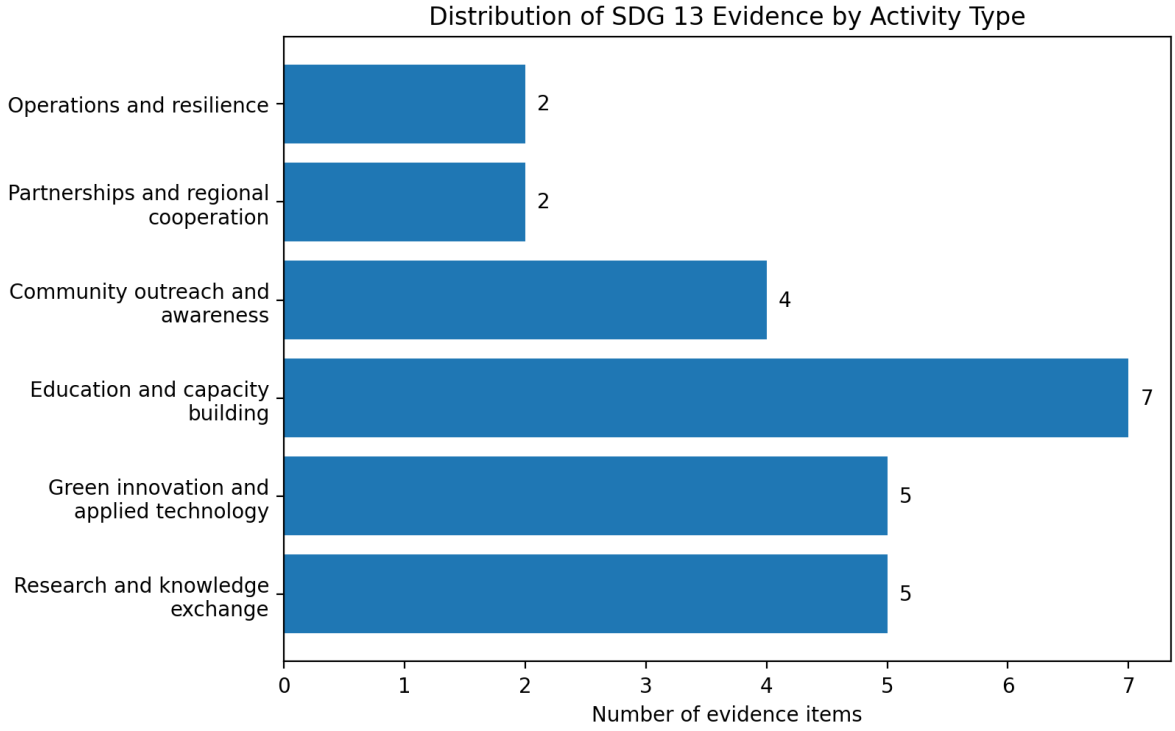


Figure 2. Distribution of evidence by activity type



3. Institutional Strategy Positioning for Climate Action

ATU's 2025 evidence suggests an emerging institutional strategy for climate action built on five practical pillars. First, the university uses environmental education to strengthen climate literacy among students through seminars, trainings, and curriculum-linked scientific activities. Second, it activates student engagement through clubs, competitions, and applied projects. Third, it links academic learning with practical environments, such as greening departments, ecological internships, and external technology platforms. Fourth, it develops outward-facing partnerships with public agencies, companies, research institutions and regional networks. Fifth, it is beginning to translate awareness into technology-oriented solutions, as reflected in GreenTech II and the smart electric car initiative.

This pattern is consistent with a university that is moving from fragmented sustainability actions toward a more integrated climate portfolio. However, for ranking strength and institutional coherence, ATU should formalize this strategy explicitly. A future public climate action framework could be organized around four headings: climate education and research; green innovation and entrepreneurship; sustainable operations and emissions management; and partnerships for ecological resilience. Much of the evidence required for the first and fourth headings already exists. The third heading remains the main gap.

For a stronger QS position, the university's next stage should not merely be to do more climate-related activities, but to make climate action more legible as institutional strategy. This means creating clear policy language, assigning ownership, publishing targets, and converting dispersed achievements into recurring annual indicators.

Proposed strategic architecture for future reporting

Strategic pillar	Current evidence visible in 2025	Next-step strengthening priority
Climate education and literacy	Environmental seminars, monitoring training, biodiversity events, climate-related student scientific seminars	Create a visible climate curriculum map and publish annual participation figures
Applied research and innovation	GreenTech II, smart irrigation and agronomy showcase, smart electric car prototype, ecological monitoring discussions	Track outputs, prototypes, publications, awards and follow-on commercialization or pilots
Operational sustainability and resilience	Emergency preparedness event; ecology and civil defense classrooms	Publish climate policy, emissions baseline, energy data, renewable generation and resilience measures
Partnerships and community impact	Toyota Beyond Zero, school outreach, Goygol National Park event, Caspian regional assembly	Formalize partnership outcomes and report community beneficiaries, projects and continuity

4. Evidence Narrative: January-February 2025

The opening phase of the year established the climate-action baseline through international ecology participation, the launch of a green technology platform, and the preparation of ecology students for practical engagement.

1. Participation in International Multidisciplinary Ecology and Environmental Studies Congress (2025-02-11)

Environmental Protection staff joined an international ecology congress in Paris with participants from 10 countries, strengthening climate-related scientific exchange.

QS relevance. This item contributes by expanding environmental knowledge exchange and connecting climate-related themes to scientific discussion.

Evidence link:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1077155107549026&set=pcb.1077155597548977

2. Launch of GreenTech II Startup and Green Technologies Competition (2025-02-14)

ATU launched a green technology competition for university students, focusing on startup solutions to environmental problems and climate action.

QS relevance. This item contributes by demonstrating applied green technology, entrepreneurial climate problem-solving, and visible environmental innovation.

Evidence link:
https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=595163896641022&set=a.116485534508863

3. Internship preparation for Ecology and Environmental Engineering students (2025-02-17)

Fourth-year ecology and environmental engineering students were prepared for production practice, reinforcing professional climate-related competencies.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10027685503943236&set=pcb.10027686660609787

4. Ecology students' industrial practice in Ganja City Greening Department (2025-02-22)

Ecology and ecological engineering students undertook practical work in a municipal greening department, linking environmental training with urban climate resilience.

QS relevance. This item contributes by extending climate and ecological awareness beyond the classroom into community-facing practice.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1101478288443891&set=pcb.1101478491777204

5. Evidence Narrative: March-April 2025

March and April formed the strongest period of SDG 13 activity in 2025. The period combined green innovation, climate-themed academic activity, biodiversity and ecological awareness, and public-private cooperation around sustainability.

1. GreenTech II competition expands through new partners and sponsors (2025-03-06)

The Innovation and Digital Development Agency and multiple private sponsors joined GreenTech II, broadening the climate innovation ecosystem.

QS relevance. This item contributes by demonstrating applied green technology, entrepreneurial climate problem-solving, and visible environmental innovation.

Evidence link: https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1154

2. Department of Environmental Protection academic planning meeting (2025-03-06)

Environmental Protection faculty meeting sustained curricular attention to ecology-related content and departmental delivery.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122191160450045322&set=pcb.122191160618045322

3. Student seminar on environmental monitoring, industrial waste and ecotourism (2025-03-13)

A multidisciplinary seminar examined ecological monitoring in liberated territories, industrial waste in Sumgayit, and ecotourism.

QS relevance. This item contributes by expanding environmental knowledge exchange and connecting climate-related themes to scientific discussion.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2357043234682342&set=pcb.2357043418015657

4. Toyota Beyond Zero cooperation meeting (2025-03-14)

ATU and Toyota Ganja Center aligned on environmental education, sustainable development awareness, and internship pathways under Toyota's Beyond Zero campaign.

QS relevance. This item contributes by linking climate action to multi-stakeholder or cross-border collaboration.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=23947323984886153&set=pcb.23947326844885867

5. Our Ecological Heritage: Goygol event (2025-04-02)

A scientific-educational event with Goygol National Park promoted natural heritage protection, biodiversity awareness, and ecological responsibility.

QS relevance. This item contributes by extending climate and ecological awareness beyond the classroom into community-facing practice.

Evidence link: https://atu.edu.az/xeber/1165

6. Student seminar with climate change impact discussions (2025-04-08)

A seminar explicitly linked climate change effects to student learning and ecological responsibility.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2382334612153204&set=pcb.2382335175486481

7. Green Silence: Plant Protection seminar (2025-04-10)

Joint seminar with a plant protection research institute addressed sustainable agriculture, plant health, ecological balance, and climate risks.

QS relevance. This item contributes by expanding environmental knowledge exchange and connecting climate-related themes to scientific discussion.

Evidence link: https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1172

8. GreenTech II final stage (2025-04-17)

GreenTech II final involved 80 teams from 30 universities across categories such as digital ecology, green transportation and sustainability innovations.

QS relevance. This item contributes by demonstrating applied green technology, entrepreneurial climate problem-solving, and visible environmental innovation.

Evidence link: https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1177

9. Seminar on global climate change and inclusive sustainability (2025-04-22)

Student seminar explored the social and economic implications of climate change as a factor in inclusive sustainability.

QS relevance. This item contributes by expanding environmental knowledge exchange and connecting climate-related themes to scientific discussion.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2395720947481237&set=pcb.2395721017481230

10. Seminar on ecological problems of the ocean (2025-04-24)

Ocean ecological challenges were discussed to strengthen environmental awareness and understanding of climate-linked marine issues.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2397969333923065&set=pcb.2397969567256375

11. Global Ecological Crisis: A Call to Action seminar (2025-04-28)

Student scientific seminar promoted critical thinking around global ecological crisis and environmental responsibility.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2402215343498464&set=pcb.2402215606831771

12. Training on environmental monitoring and green technologies (2025-04-28)

Bachelor's and master's students received training on environmental monitoring, green technologies, sustainable development, and innovation in climate action.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link:
https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1222015218080857 61&set=pcb.122201521886085761

6. Evidence Narrative: May-June 2025

In May and June, the climate-action profile broadened beyond seminars into resilience education, biodiversity outreach, and the public presentation of sustainable agricultural technologies.

1. Emergency preparedness event (2025-05-08)

An educational event on emergency situations and civil defense strengthened preparedness and resilience relevant to climate-linked risks.

QS relevance. This item contributes by strengthening resilience, preparedness, or supporting infrastructure relevant to climate action.

Evidence link: https://atu.edu.az/news/1186

2. New Ecology and Civil Defense classrooms (2025-05-08)

ATU opened Ecology and Civil Defense teaching spaces, strengthening infrastructure for environmental and resilience education.

QS relevance. This item contributes by strengthening resilience, preparedness, or supporting infrastructure relevant to climate action.

Evidence link: https://atu.edu.az/news/1188

3. Caspian Agro 2025 participation with smart irrigation and digital agronomy (2025-05-19)

ATU showcased smart irrigation systems, soil sensors, digital agronomy and other sustainable agriculture solutions at Caspian Agro 2025.

QS relevance. This item contributes by demonstrating applied green technology, entrepreneurial climate problem-solving, and visible environmental innovation.

Evidence link:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=992429909584562&set=pcb.992429982917888

4. Noise pollution seminar (2025-05-20)

Student seminar examined noise pollution as an environmental problem affecting urban health and sustainability.

QS relevance. This item contributes by building climate literacy, environmental awareness, and discipline-relevant student capacity.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=2420640431655955&set=pcb.2420640648322600

5. Biodiversity Day school outreach seminar and quiz (2025-05-21)

Environmental Protection staff and Eco Club members delivered biodiversity education in a regional school community.

QS relevance. This item contributes by extending climate and ecological awareness beyond the classroom into community-facing practice.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1154528319811704&set=pcb.1154528586478344

6. Eco Club event on the role of biodiversity in the SDGs (2025-05-22)

The Eco Club promoted biodiversity awareness and ecological responsibility among young people, linking ecosystems to sustainable development and climate action.

QS relevance. This item contributes by extending climate and ecological awareness beyond the classroom into community-facing practice.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1221147791668422 91&set=pcb.122114779436842291

7. Evidence Narrative: July-December 2025

The second half of the year produced the most strategically significant innovation and regional cooperation evidence, especially through Caspian ecosystem dialogue and the smart electric vehicle project.

1. Caspian Countries Universities Association General Assembly participation (2025-10-17)

ATU joined regional discussions on Caspian ecosystem protection and collaborative scientific projects, strengthening climate-related academic partnerships.

QS relevance. This item contributes by linking climate action to multi-stakeholder or cross-border collaboration.

Evidence link: https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1276

2. ATU smart electric car project announcement (2025-10-30)

Students and researchers developed an AI-enabled smart electric car integrating solar panels, battery technology, energy recovery and intelligent management.

QS relevance. This item contributes by demonstrating applied green technology, entrepreneurial climate problem-solving, and visible environmental innovation.

Evidence link: https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1282

3. Seminar on AI in water management, pesticides and waste incineration (2025-12-10)

Environmental Protection students and staff discussed AI for water management, pesticide control and solid waste incineration as interlinked environmental challenges.

QS relevance. This item contributes by expanding environmental knowledge exchange and connecting climate-related themes to scientific discussion.

Evidence link: https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2606394529747210&set=pcb.2606394739747189

8. KPI Dashboard and Interpretation

The quantitative dashboard should be read as a minimum-visibility baseline rather than a full climate inventory. It captures what is publicly visible and clearly attributable in the 2025 news flow. The real institutional footprint may be larger, but only demonstrable public evidence should be counted for ranking purposes unless stronger internal data are available.

The data suggest that ATU's current SDG 13 identity is strongest in three areas: education-led climate literacy, innovation-led environmental problem-solving, and outreach-led ecological awareness. This pattern is positive because it reflects institutional engagement across learning, research culture, and public value. However, it also means that ATU's climate portfolio is still more activity-based than systems-based. That distinction matters in rankings: activities show commitment, but strategies and metrics show maturity.

For future reporting cycles, ATU should aim to connect activity counts with outcome metrics. Suitable next-stage indicators include number of students participating in climate-related modules or events; number of environmental theses, dissertations or publications; prototype outputs arising from GreenTech; annual energy consumption and renewable generation; emissions intensity per gross internal area; and evidence of public climate governance documents. These additions would materially strengthen the institution's performance narrative.

9. Strategic Gap Analysis and Recommendations

Gap area	Current limitation	Recommended action
Formal climate governance	No dedicated climate strategy, net-zero roadmap, or integrated climate governance structure is visible in the 2025 evidence set.	Publish a climate strategy approved at institutional level; assign executive oversight; define annual reporting responsibilities.
Operational metrics	The portfolio does not yet publish emissions, energy, renewable generation, or climate-risk indicators.	Create an annual environmental data sheet covering Scope 1 and 2 emissions, energy use, gross internal area, renewable generation and progress to target.
Research traceability	Environmental and climate topics appear in seminars and events, but a consolidated climate research portfolio is not yet visible.	Map publications, theses, conference papers, projects and laboratories relevant to climate action; produce an annual research inventory.
Impact reporting	Many activities are strong qualitatively but lack beneficiary counts, follow-up outcomes, or repeatability data.	Track participation, outputs, awards, prototypes, school beneficiaries, partner institutions and continuation status.
Public evidence quality	News items are useful but uneven in detail and not always framed in ranking-	Adopt a standard sustainability evidence template for all future news releases: objective, scale,

Gap area	Current limitation	Recommended action
	ready language.	participants, outcomes, link to strategy, and SDG rationale.

The most immediate ranking gain would come from converting existing sustainability practice into evidence that matches the structure of QS assessment. ATU already has credible stories. What it needs next is stronger institutional documentation, regularized metrics, and a clearer public statement of climate ambition.

In practical terms, the university can move from a climate-action narrative based on activities to one based on systems by implementing three linked annual documents: a climate strategy statement, an environmental performance factsheet, and an SDG evidence register. If those three products are prepared consistently, the university's climate profile will become significantly more competitive in future sustainability submissions.

10. Conclusion

The 2025 evidence base demonstrates that Azerbaijan Technological University has established a credible and increasingly visible contribution to SDG 13 through environmental education, green innovation, biodiversity awareness, applied student activity, and climate-relevant partnerships. The university's strongest attribute lies in its ability to connect climate action with learning, experimentation, and public engagement rather than treating sustainability as a purely symbolic agenda.

GreenTech II, ecological training, biodiversity outreach, and the smart electric car initiative together show that ATU is developing a distinct climate profile rooted in regional relevance and student-centered innovation. These are important institutional strengths and should be retained as signature themes in future reporting.

To move toward a higher-scoring QS sustainability position, the university should now consolidate these strengths into a formal climate strategy with measurable operational indicators and stronger research traceability. Doing so would allow ATU not only to report climate action more effectively, but to manage it more strategically.

Annex A. Full Evidence Register and Links

The annex consolidates all SDG 13-relevant evidence items used in this report. Each entry records the reporting period, activity title, activity type, and source link. This table is designed for audit-ready review and future updating.

No.	Date	Evidence item	Category	Link
1	2025-02-11	Participation in International Multidisciplinary Ecology and Environmental Studies Congress	Research and knowledge exchange	Open source
2	2025-02-14	Launch of GreenTech II Startup and Green Technologies Competition	Green innovation and applied technology	Open source
3	2025-02-17	Internship preparation for Ecology and Environmental Engineering students	Education and capacity building	Open source
4	2025-02-22	Ecology students' industrial practice in Ganja City Greening Department	Community outreach and awareness	Open source
5	2025-03-06	GreenTech II competition expands through new partners and sponsors	Green innovation and applied technology	Open source
6	2025-03-06	Department of Environmental Protection academic planning meeting	Education and capacity building	Open source
7	2025-03-13	Student seminar on	Research and	Open source

No.	Date	Evidence item	Category	Link
		environmental monitoring, industrial waste and ecotourism	knowledge exchange	
8	2025-03-14	Toyota Beyond Zero cooperation meeting	Partnerships and regional cooperation	Open source
9	2025-04-02	Our Ecological Heritage: Goygol event	Community outreach and awareness	Open source
10	2025-04-08	Student seminar with climate change impact discussions	Education and capacity building	Open source
11	2025-04-10	Green Silence: Plant Protection seminar	Research and knowledge exchange	Open source
12	2025-04-17	GreenTech II final stage	Green innovation and applied technology	Open source
13	2025-04-22	Seminar on global climate change and inclusive sustainability	Research and knowledge exchange	Open source
14	2025-04-24	Seminar on ecological problems of the ocean	Education and capacity building	Open source
15	2025-04-28	Global Ecological Crisis: A Call	Education and	Open source

No.	Date	Evidence item	Category	Link
		to Action seminar	capacity building	
16	2025-04-28	Training on environmental monitoring and green technologies	Education and capacity building	Open source
17	2025-05-08	Emergency preparedness event	Operations and resilience	Open source
18	2025-05-08	New Ecology and Civil Defense classrooms	Operations and resilience	Open source
19	2025-05-19	Caspian Agro 2025 participation with smart irrigation and digital agronomy	Green innovation and applied technology	Open source
20	2025-05-20	Noise pollution seminar	Education and capacity building	Open source
21	2025-05-21	Biodiversity Day school outreach seminar and quiz	Community outreach and awareness	Open source
22	2025-05-22	Eco Club event on the role of biodiversity in the SDGs	Community outreach and awareness	Open source
23	2025-10-17	Caspian Countries Universities Association General Assembly participation	Partnerships and regional cooperation	Open source

No.	Date	Evidence item	Category	Link
24	2025-10-30	ATU smart electric car project announcement	Green innovation and applied technology	Open source
25	2025-12-10	Seminar on AI in water management, pesticides and waste incineration	Research and knowledge exchange	Open source

End of report