BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY · SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Plan 2025–2030

A framework for mitigation, adaptation, climate literacy and community engagement at Baku Slavic University



Document control	
Status	Approved
Version / date	Version 1.0 · November 2025
Responsible unit	Strategy and Quality Assurance Team
Reporting baseline	BSU SDG 13 Climate Action Progress Report 2025
Planning horizon	2025–2030, with annual review and a strategic review in 2030

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Executive Summary

Climate change is among the defining challenges for higher education institutions, which contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through their estates and operations while also shaping the knowledge, skills and values of future professionals. This Climate Action Plan sets out how Baku Slavic University (BSU) will address both dimensions between 2025 and 2030: by measuring and reducing the emissions under its operational control, by strengthening the resilience of its campus to climate-related hazards, and by embedding climate literacy in teaching, research and public engagement.

The Plan is evidence-led. It builds on the figures reported in the BSU SDG 13 Climate Action Progress Report 2025 and treats them as a provisional baseline to be validated against utility, fuel and metering records before quantitative reduction targets are formally adopted. This sequencing reflects good practice in GHG accounting, under which credible targets depend on a complete, consistent and transparent inventory.

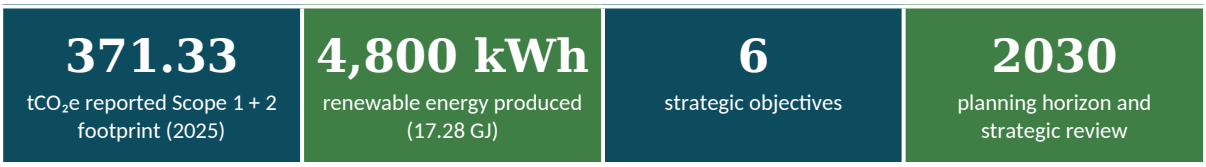

Figure 1. Key reported baseline figures. Source: BSU SDG 13 Climate Action Progress Report 2025 (reported institutional figures, not independently audited).

Core commitments. BSU will (1) establish a verified energy and GHG baseline by the end of 2026; (2) reduce avoidable energy demand through a phased programme of audits and efficiency upgrades; (3) expand feasible on-site renewable energy; (4) assess and manage physical climate risks to people and operations; (5) integrate climate change into education and outreach; and (6) work with the local government bodies and community organisations with which the Plan has been shared, and report progress publicly each year.

1. Purpose, Scope and Boundary

1.1 Purpose

This Plan defines BSU's institutional approach to climate mitigation, adaptation, energy and resource management, climate education and community engagement for the period 2025–2030. It provides a common reference for decision-making across academic and administrative units and a transparent basis for internal monitoring and external reporting, including reporting against Sustainable Development Goal 13.

1.2 Scope

The Plan covers university-controlled buildings and operations, purchased electricity, heating, university-operated vehicles, and the University's teaching, research and outreach activities. It is a living document and will be reviewed annually.

1.3 Organisational and operational boundary

Emissions are accounted for using an operational control approach, consistent with the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (WRI and WBCSD, 2004). The initial inventory boundary comprises:

- **Scope 1 –** direct emissions from fuel combusted for heating in university-controlled buildings and from university-operated vehicles;
- **Scope 2 –** indirect emissions from purchased electricity, calculated using a documented location-based grid emission factor.

Scope 3 emissions (for example, commuting, business travel, procurement and waste) are excluded from the initial baseline. A screening assessment of material Scope 3 categories is planned for 2028, so that the boundary can be extended where data quality allows.

2. Policy Context and Alignment

The Plan is aligned with international and national climate commitments and with established frameworks for climate education:

- **Paris Agreement (2015) –** the global goal of holding warming well below 2 °C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C, alongside enhanced adaptive capacity and resilience.
- **2030 Agenda, SDG 13 –** in particular targets 13.1 (resilience and adaptive capacity), 13.2 (integration of climate measures into policies and planning) and 13.3 (education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity).
- **Azerbaijan's Nationally Determined Contributions –** the national objective of a 40% reduction in GHG emissions relative to 1990, set for 2050 in the 2023 NDC and brought forward to 2035 in the NDC 3.0 submitted in 2025, together with the commitment to raise the share of renewables in installed electricity capacity to 30% by 2030.
- **Education for Sustainable Development –** UNESCO's ESD for 2030 framework, which positions universities as key actors in building climate competence among learners and communities.

Azerbaijan's hosting of COP29 in Baku in November 2024 has heightened national attention to climate action. As an institution with a strong profile in education, languages and international relations, BSU is well placed to contribute to climate literacy and intercultural dialogue on climate issues.

3. Baseline and Quality of Evidence

The BSU SDG 13 Climate Action Progress Report 2025 records renewable-energy production of 4,800 kWh (17.28 GJ) and an annual Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon footprint of 371.33 tCO_2e. It also reports energy-efficiency measures, including LED lighting, inverter technologies, energy-efficient ICT and solar-powered applications.

Indicator	2025 value	Source	Evidence status	Action required
Scope 1 + 2 emissions	371.33 tCO_2e	SDG 13 Report 2025	Reported, not audited	Reconcile with fuel and electricity records; document emission factors

Indicator	2025 value	Source	Evidence status	Action required
Renewable energy produced	4,800 kWh (17.28 GJ)	SDG 13 Report 2025	Reported	Install or verify dedicated generation metering
Total campus energy use	Not yet compiled	Utility and fuel records	Data gap	Compile monthly records by facility; convert to GJ
Low-carbon share of energy	Not yet compiled	Utility records	Data gap	Separate on-site generation from purchased electricity
Energy-efficiency measures	LED, inverter, efficient ICT, solar applications	SDG 13 Report 2025	Reported (qualitative)	Record locations, dates and estimated savings

Table 1. Baseline indicators and evidence status.

Data-quality statement

The figures above are reported institutional figures and have not been independently audited. Total campus energy consumption and the full breakdown of low-carbon energy require verification against utility and fuel records. Quantitative reduction targets will therefore be confirmed only after the baseline has been validated (see Section 5.3).

4. Strategic Objectives

BSU will pursue six strategic objectives. Each is linked to measurable outcomes in the implementation matrix (Section 11).

	Objective	Intended outcome by 2030
O1	Improve the completeness and quality of the energy and GHG inventory	A verified, annually updated inventory with documented methods, factors and exclusions
O2	Reduce avoidable energy demand	Measured reductions in energy use per square metre following building audits and upgrades
O3	Expand feasible renewable-energy applications	Increased on-site generation, separately metered and reported
O4	Strengthen resilience to heat, extreme weather and operational disruption	An approved climate risk register and continuity measures for critical services
O5	Integrate climate literacy into education and public engagement	Climate content across programmes and a documented annual outreach programme
O6	Cooperate with local government and community groups	The approved Plan shared, acknowledged and discussed with external stakeholders

Table 2. Strategic objectives and intended outcomes.

5. Mitigation: Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

5.1 Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Energy action will be phased so that investment decisions rest on reliable data:

- **2025–2026:** compile monthly electricity, heating and vehicle-fuel records by facility; reconcile annual totals in kWh and GJ; document the boundary and avoid double counting.
- **2026–2027:** undertake building-level audits of lighting, equipment and heating, and prioritise efficiency upgrades by cost-effectiveness and emissions impact.
- **2027–2030:** implement cost-effective upgrades; assess the technical and economic feasibility of rooftop solar; and track solar generation separately from purchased electricity.

Energy management will be guided by the plan–do–check–act logic of ISO 50001, with annual performance compared against the verified 2025 baseline once it is established.

5.2 Greenhouse gas inventory methodology

BSU will maintain an annual inventory of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. For each source, the inventory will record activity data, emission factors and their provenance, calculation methods and any exclusions. Default factors will follow the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (and their 2019 Refinement) unless more specific national factors are available. The inventory will be structured so that it can be verified against ISO 14064-1. Year-on-year changes will be published together with an explanation of any methodological changes or recalculations.

5.3 Indicative ambition and target-setting

To give direction while the baseline is validated, the following indicative ambitions are set out. They will become formal targets only after baseline validation and approval, and each adopted target will specify its baseline, measurement method, owner and approval date.

Metric	Baseline	Indicative ambition for 2030
Absolute Scope 1 + 2 emissions (tCO_2e)	Verified 2025 value	Reduction of at least 20%
Emissions intensity (tCO_2e per student and staff FTE)	Verified 2025 value	Reduction of at least 25%
Energy intensity (kWh per m^2 of floor area)	Verified 2025 value	Reduction of at least 15%
On-site renewable generation (kWh)	4,800 kWh (2025, reported)	Expansion subject to the 2027 solar feasibility assessment

Table 3. Indicative ambitions (to be confirmed as formal targets after baseline validation).

6. Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Azerbaijan is already experiencing warming: the country's Third National Communication to the UNFCCC reports an increase in average temperatures of 1.3 °C in 2010 relative to the 1961–1990

average. For an urban campus in Baku, the most relevant physical risks are extreme heat, heavy rainfall, disruption to water supply and power outages.

BSU will assess these risks systematically, identify vulnerable spaces and critical services, and review ventilation, shading, drainage, emergency communication and continuity procedures. Risk-awareness and preparedness information will be coordinated with relevant local services as appropriate.

Hazard	Potential impacts on BSU	Priority measures	Lead
Extreme heat	Thermal discomfort and health risks in teaching spaces; reduced learning and productivity; higher cooling demand	Identify overheating rooms; shading and ventilation; adjusted schedules during heatwaves	Facilities / Administration
Heavy rainfall	Localised flooding; damage to ground-floor spaces and equipment	Drainage inspection and maintenance; protection of critical equipment	Facilities
Water disruption	Interruption of sanitation and catering; health and safety concerns	Water-saving measures; contingency supply arrangements	Facilities / Administration
Power outages	Loss of teaching, ICT and examinations; data and safety risks	Continuity procedures; protection of critical ICT; assessment of back-up options	Administration / ICT

Table 4. Initial climate risk register (to be completed with likelihood and impact ratings in 2027).

7. Waste, Water and Sustainable Procurement

BSU will continue waste segregation, the reduction of paper and plastic use, digitalisation of administrative processes and water conservation. Waste and water indicators will be tracked using comparable annual records so that trends can be interpreted reliably. Energy efficiency, durability and repairability will be incorporated into procurement criteria where practical and consistent with applicable procurement requirements, recognising that purchasing decisions lock in energy use for many years.

8. Climate Education, Research and Engagement

As a university with particular strengths in education, languages, psychology and international relations, BSU's distinctive contribution to climate action lies in building climate literacy and supporting informed public dialogue. In line with SDG target 13.3, BSU will:

- integrate climate change, sustainability and environmental ethics into relevant academic programmes and teacher education;
- encourage student and staff research on climate communication, education for sustainable development and the social dimensions of climate change;
- support climate-change training, seminars, student initiatives and public educational activities on impacts, mitigation, adaptation and resource conservation;

- build on the 2025 SDG Week and Green Youth activities documented in the progress report to develop accessible outreach sessions for local schools, community organisations and relevant municipal bodies.

For every activity, BSU will document audiences, dates, agendas, materials and participant feedback, and will distinguish clearly between events organised by BSU and external events attended by BSU representatives.

9. Sharing the Plan with Local Government and Community Groups

Following its approval, the Plan has been published on the official BSU website and formally shared with relevant local government bodies and community organisations. Recipients, dates, correspondence and acknowledgements are recorded by the University as part of its evidence register.

> **Continued engagement.** BSU maintains dialogue with local government bodies and community organisations on the implementation of the Plan and shares its annual progress updates with them.

10. Governance and Accountability

The Strategy and Quality Assurance Team will coordinate implementation and annual reporting. Implementation is supported by a cross-functional Climate Action Working Group, bringing together the units below.

Unit	Principal responsibilities
University leadership	Approves the Plan and any formal targets; allocates resources; leads external sharing
Strategy and Quality Assurance Team	Coordinates implementation; compiles the annual progress report; maintains the evidence register
Facilities management	Energy, fuel and water data; audits and upgrades; adaptation measures
Finance and procurement	Utility and fuel records; sustainable procurement criteria; budgeting
Academic units	Climate education, research and outreach; documentation of activities
Student representatives	Student initiatives, awareness campaigns and feedback on implementation

Table 5. Roles and responsibilities.

Milestones: baseline validation by the end of 2026; first annual implementation review in 2027; annual progress updates thereafter; and a strategic review in 2030 to inform the University's next planning cycle.

11. Implementation and Monitoring Matrix

Action	Timing	Key performance indicator / evidence	Lead
Energy inventory	2026	Annual electricity, heating, fuel and solar records compiled and converted to GJ	Facilities / Finance
GHG inventory	Annually	Scope 1 and 2 tCO_2e with documented methodology and emission factors	Sustainability coordination
Building energy audits	2026–2027	Audits completed for all main buildings; prioritised upgrade list	Facilities
Efficiency upgrades	2027–2030	Measures completed; verified energy savings (kWh and %)	Facilities / Procurement
Solar feasibility	2027	Feasibility study completed; decision recorded	Facilities / Leadership
Adaptation review	2027, then annually	Risk register with ratings; continuity measures in place	Facilities / Administration
Climate education and outreach	Annually	Number of activities, participants, programmes with climate content; learning materials	Academic units
External sharing of the Plan	Completed; progress shared annually	Public link; dated recipient acknowledgements or meeting minutes	University leadership
Annual progress report	Annually from 2027	Published report with year-on-year comparison	Strategy and QA Team

Table 6. Implementation and monitoring matrix.

12. Implementation Risks

Risk	Mitigation
Incomplete or inconsistent utility and fuel data	Monthly data collection by facility; a single evidence register; reconciliation with invoices
Limited capital funding for upgrades	Prioritise low-cost, high-impact measures; pursue national and international funding and partnerships
Limited technical capacity	Training for responsible staff; cooperation with partner institutions and specialists
Insufficient documentation of activities	Standard templates for events and actions; annual evidence review

Table 7. Principal implementation risks and mitigation measures.

13. Supporting Documents and Required Evidence

Primary supporting source: Baku Slavic University, SDG 13 – Climate Action Progress Report 2025, especially pp. 6–7 and 13–15. Supporting records: 2025 utility and fuel consumption, renewable-energy metering, the approval order, the official publication link and dated records of distribution to local government bodies and community organisations.

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