



BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY



CLIMATE ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



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SECTION 1.

POLICY STATEMENT

Baku Slavic University (BSU) is committed to promoting environmental sustainability and contributing to climate action through responsible and forward-looking institutional practices. The University acknowledges the growing impact of global environmental challenges and recognizes its role in supporting sustainable development at local, national, and international levels. As a higher education institution with a strong focus on humanities, social sciences, and international cooperation, BSU contributes to sustainability primarily through education, research, and community engagement, fostering awareness and responsible behavior among students and staff.

BSU aligns its sustainability initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and the environmental priorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The University is committed to integrating sustainability principles into its academic programs, research activities, institutional management, and outreach initiatives. Through these efforts, BSU aims to gradually reduce its environmental impact while promoting a culture of sustainability, social responsibility, and inclusion within the university community.

This policy establishes the overarching framework for climate action and sustainability at BSU, providing strategic direction for institutional activities and serving as a foundation for related plans, initiatives, and future development strategies.



SECTION 2.

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This policy applies to all activities and operations of Baku Slavic University (BSU), encompassing academic, administrative, research, and community engagement functions. It is relevant to all members of the university community, including students, academic staff, administrative personnel, as well as external stakeholders such as partner institutions, service providers, and community organizations engaged with the University.

The policy ensures that sustainability and climate action principles are integrated into institutional practices and decision-making processes at all levels. This includes, but is not limited to, curriculum development and teaching, research planning and implementation, campus operations and resource management, procurement processes, student services, and university-led events and initiatives.

Given the profile of BSU, particular emphasis is placed on embedding sustainability within education, social impact activities, and international cooperation. The policy promotes the incorporation of sustainability themes into academic content, student engagement initiatives, and collaborative projects with external partners.

This policy supports a whole-of-institution approach, recognizing that effective implementation requires coordinated efforts across faculties, departments, and administrative units, as well as active participation from the entire university community.



SECTION 3.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

Sustainability refers to a balanced approach to development that meets current needs while safeguarding the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, encompassing environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

Climate Action refers to measures aimed at reducing environmental impact, including efforts to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, promote efficient resource use, and strengthen awareness and adaptive capacity within the university community.

Carbon Footprint refers to the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the University's activities, both direct and indirect, expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), where measurable.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refer to the 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, which provide a framework for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental protection.

Resource Efficiency refers to the responsible and efficient use of natural resources, including energy, water, and materials, in order to reduce environmental impact within university operations.

Green Procurement refers to the consideration of environmental and social factors in purchasing decisions, with preference given to goods and services that have lower environmental impact, where feasible.



SECTION 4.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Baku Slavic University (BSU) is committed to advancing sustainability and climate action through a comprehensive and integrated approach that reflects its academic profile, institutional capacity, and social responsibility. The University adopts a balanced perspective that combines environmental protection, social development, and responsible resource management, ensuring alignment with both national priorities and global sustainability frameworks.

4.1. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

BSU recognizes the importance of contributing to climate action by reducing its environmental impact and promoting responsible energy use. The University seeks to improve energy efficiency across its facilities through the gradual adoption of energy-saving technologies, optimization of energy consumption, and awareness-raising initiatives among students and staff.

Efforts are also directed toward monitoring energy use where feasible and encouraging behavioral changes that support energy conservation. While large-scale infrastructure transformation may be implemented progressively, BSU prioritizes practical and achievable measures that contribute to long-term reductions in environmental impact.



4.2. WATER AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The University is committed to the efficient and responsible use of natural resources, including water, energy, and materials. BSU promotes resource efficiency through improved operational practices, monitoring of consumption patterns where possible, and awareness initiatives aimed at reducing unnecessary use.

The University encourages responsible behavior among students and staff, supporting initiatives that minimize waste of resources in daily activities. Where applicable, efforts are made to improve infrastructure and introduce practices that enhance overall efficiency in resource management.

4.3. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

BSU aims to reduce waste generation and promote responsible consumption practices across the campus. The University supports waste reduction initiatives, including the separation of waste, reduction of single-use materials, and promotion of recycling practices in line with available local systems.

In addition, BSU encourages sustainable consumption habits within the university community by raising awareness and supporting initiatives that promote the efficient use of materials and reduction of environmental impact in everyday activities.



4.4. AMPUS ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE

The University is committed to maintaining a sustainable, safe, and environmentally responsible campus environment. This includes preserving and improving green areas, ensuring cleanliness and environmental quality, and promoting environmentally friendly practices in campus operations.

BSU also emphasizes the development of a sustainability culture, encouraging students and staff to actively participate in environmental initiatives and adopt responsible behaviors that contribute to a more sustainable campus.

4.5.SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

BSU promotes responsible procurement practices that take into account environmental and social considerations. The University encourages the selection of goods and services that have lower environmental impact, where feasible, and supports suppliers that adhere to responsible production and delivery practices.

Efforts are made to improve procurement processes by integrating sustainability considerations into decision-making, while maintaining efficiency and institutional requirements.



4.6. SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUSION, AND WELLBEING

BSU recognizes that sustainability extends beyond environmental aspects and includes social responsibility, equality, and human wellbeing. The University is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable academic environment that supports diversity, equal opportunities, and respect for human rights.

The University promotes the physical and mental wellbeing of students and staff through supportive services, awareness initiatives, and a safe campus environment. BSU also ensures that institutional practices reflect fairness, transparency, and respect for all members of the university community.

4.7. EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

As an academic institution, BSU contributes to sustainability primarily through education and research. The University integrates sustainability concepts into academic programs, encouraging students to develop knowledge and competencies related to sustainable development.

BSU supports research activities that address social, environmental, and economic challenges, particularly within its areas of expertise such as humanities, social sciences, and international studies. Interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged to strengthen the impact of research outcomes.

The University also promotes student engagement through academic projects, conferences, and initiatives related to sustainability, fostering innovation and critical thinking.



4.8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

BSU actively engages with local communities, partner institutions, and international organizations to promote sustainability awareness and collaboration. The University organizes educational events, seminars, and outreach activities that contribute to knowledge sharing and social development.

Partnerships play a key role in advancing sustainability goals, and BSU seeks to strengthen cooperation with stakeholders at national and international levels, including participation in joint projects, academic exchanges, and sustainability-related initiatives.

SECTION 5.

IMPLEMENTATION

Baku Slavic University (BSU) implements this policy through a set of coordinated institutional measures, integrating sustainability principles into academic, administrative, and operational processes. The implementation is guided by the University's strategic priorities, annual action plans, and sustainability-related initiatives, which define achievable targets, activities, and performance indicators.

Sustainability is embedded into institutional planning and daily operations through a gradual and evidence-based approach. The University ensures that sustainability-related actions are aligned with its academic profile, available resources, and national and international frameworks. Implementation processes are periodically reviewed and updated to ensure relevance, effectiveness, and continuous improvement.



5.1. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND CURRICULUM

BSU integrates sustainability concepts into its academic programs, particularly within the fields of humanities, social sciences, education, and international studies. The University aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute to sustainable development in their respective professional areas.

Sustainability-related topics are incorporated into course content where relevant, including themes such as environmental awareness, social responsibility, global challenges, and sustainable development. Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged to ensure that students gain a comprehensive understanding of sustainability issues.

In addition, BSU supports academic events such as conferences, seminars, and workshops that address sustainability-related themes, thereby strengthening both formal and informal learning opportunities.

5.2. CAMPUS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

BSU promotes the integration of sustainability principles into campus management and operational practices. The University focuses on improving efficiency in resource use, maintaining a clean and environmentally responsible campus environment, and encouraging sustainable behavior among students and staff.

Efforts include optimizing energy and water consumption where feasible, promoting responsible use of materials, and supporting environmentally friendly practices in daily operations. While large-scale infrastructure developments are implemented progressively, BSU prioritizes practical and achievable improvements aligned with its institutional capacity.



The University also encourages sustainable mobility practices and supports initiatives that contribute to a safe, accessible, and environmentally conscious campus environment.

5.2. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

BSU supports research activities that contribute to sustainable development, particularly within its academic focus areas. The University encourages faculty members and postgraduate students to engage in research addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Interdisciplinary research is promoted to enhance the impact of academic outputs, and opportunities for collaboration are encouraged both within the University and with external partners. BSU also supports the dissemination of research findings through conferences, publications, and academic events.

Where possible, the University facilitates knowledge exchange and cooperation with external stakeholders, contributing to the practical application of research outcomes.

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5.4. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

BSU actively develops partnerships with national and international institutions, organizations, and networks to advance its sustainability objectives. Collaboration with governmental bodies, academic institutions, and international organizations supports knowledge sharing, capacity building, and joint initiatives.

The University participates in international frameworks and ranking systems related to sustainability, such as the THE Impact Rankings and UI GreenMetric, using these platforms to monitor progress and enhance institutional performance.

BSU also aligns its activities with global initiatives, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and engages in collaborative projects that contribute to sustainable development at local and international levels.



SECTION 6.

GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Baku Slavic University (BSU) ensures the effective governance and coordination of sustainability and climate action initiatives through its institutional structures and management processes. Sustainability is integrated into decision-making at different levels of the University, supported by collaboration between academic, administrative, and support units.

6.1. COORDINATING STRUCTURE

Sustainability-related activities at BSU are coordinated by relevant institutional units, particularly the Center for Digitalization and Quality Assurance (CDQA) and other designated committees or working groups. These units are responsible for supporting the implementation of sustainability initiatives, facilitating data collection and reporting processes, and providing guidance on sustainability-related matters.

They also promote communication and cooperation among faculties, departments, and external partners, while supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building activities within the University.



6.2. UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

The Rector and Vice-Rectors provide overall strategic direction and institutional support for sustainability and climate action. Sustainability considerations are incorporated into the University's strategic planning, development priorities, and institutional policies where applicable.

6.3. FACULTIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

All academic and administrative units contribute to the implementation of this policy. Faculties and departments are encouraged to integrate sustainability principles into teaching, research, and operational activities, in line with their specific areas of expertise.

Deans and heads of departments support the promotion of sustainability-related initiatives and ensure engagement within their respective units.

6.4. STUDENTS AND STAFF

Students and staff play an active role in advancing sustainability at BSU. The University encourages participation in sustainability initiatives, student-led activities, and awareness programmes.

BSU promotes a collaborative and inclusive environment where ideas, feedback, and initiatives from the university community are valued and contribute to the continuous development of sustainability practices.



SECTION 7.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Baku Slavic University (BSU) monitors its sustainability performance through appropriate indicators and institutional reporting practices. The collected data supports the evaluation of progress, informs decision-making processes, and contributes to continuous improvement in sustainability-related activities.

7.1. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The University tracks sustainability performance through a set of relevant indicators, taking into account its institutional profile and available data. These may include:

- Resource consumption (such as energy and water use), where measurable
- Waste management practices and reduction initiatives
- Number of sustainability-related courses and academic activities
- Research outputs and projects related to sustainable development
- Student and staff participation in sustainability events and training
- Community engagement and outreach activities

BSU applies a flexible and realistic approach to monitoring, ensuring that indicators are aligned with institutional capacity and data availability.



7.2. REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY

BSU is committed to transparency and regularly communicates its sustainability-related activities through institutional channels. This includes:

- Annual reports and institutional publications
- SDG-related reports and activity summaries
- Official university website and communication platforms

The University also participates in international frameworks and rankings, such as the THE Impact Rankings and, where applicable, UI GreenMetric, using these platforms to present its progress and strengthen institutional visibility.

7.3. DATA MANAGEMENT

Sustainability-related data is collected and managed by relevant university units, including the Center for Digitalization and Quality Assurance (CDQA) and other administrative structures. These units support the coordination, organization, and verification of data used for reporting and evaluation purposes.

BSU aims to ensure the consistency and accessibility of available data, supporting evidence-based planning and alignment with national and international reporting requirements.



SECTION 8.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Baku Slavic University (BSU) recognizes that effective implementation of sustainability and climate action requires active collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders at institutional, national, and international levels.

8.1. INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

BSU engages students, academic staff, and administrative personnel in the planning, implementation, and development of sustainability-related activities. The University encourages participation through academic initiatives, student organizations, and institutional events.

Feedback from the university community is considered through consultations, surveys, and regular communication channels, ensuring that sustainability initiatives reflect institutional needs and priorities.

8.2. GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

BSU cooperates with relevant national and local institutions in areas related to education, social development, and sustainability. The University contributes to national priorities through its academic activities, research, and participation in policy-relevant discussions where applicable.



8.3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACADEMIC NETWORKS

BSU actively participates in international cooperation and academic networks, supporting sustainability through joint projects, exchange programmes, and research collaboration. The University also engages with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contributes to international rankings and reporting initiatives, including the THE Impact Rankings.

8.4. COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS

BSU collaborates with local communities, non-governmental organizations, and partner institutions to promote sustainability awareness and social responsibility. Activities may include educational events, outreach programmes, volunteer initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms. These partnerships support the University's role in contributing to social development and strengthening the impact of its sustainability-related activities.

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