

Climate Action Strategy

(2020-2050)



Introduction

Khazar University recognizes climate change as one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. It affirms its responsibility to advance climate action, climate adaptation, and sustainability education through its mission, campus operations, and engagement with the wider community. Khazar University aims to become a climate-responsible university that integrates mitigation, adaptation, education, research, and leadership into all aspects of its work, while progressing toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This document provides a long-term framework for integrating climate considerations into institutional decision-making and for reducing the environmental impact of the University's activities.

This Strategy supports national and global efforts toward sustainable development, environmental protection, and the transition to a low-carbon future. It reflects the University's commitment to embedding climate action across teaching, research, governance, infrastructure, and institutional culture. The main aim of the Climate Action Strategy is to reduce the University's carbon footprint, strengthen environmental sustainability in its operations and academic activities, and build an institutional culture that supports climate responsibility, resilience, and innovation.

Purpose

Khazar University is committed to advancing climate responsibility through education, research, operations, and community engagement. This Climate Action Strategy sets out the University's long-term vision, targets, and priority actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, promote sustainable resource use, and embed climate action across institutional life. The Strategy supports the University's broader sustainability agenda and aligns with relevant national priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 4, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, and SDG 13. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of goals that aim to support all countries in achieving economic, social, and environmental sustainable development. They were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, thereby recognizing the need for partnership in creating a better world.

What has been done so far?

Currently, Khazar University, one of the leading universities in Azerbaijan, is pursuing a consistent and purposeful environmental policy on its campuses.

Khazar University's Sustainability Committee is dedicated to promoting sustainability across academic, social, and environmental dimensions. The Committee ensures that sustainability is integrated into institutional goals, policies, and practices. The Committee supports the advancement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on improving educational quality, reducing inequalities, supporting economic development, and preserving the environment.

The University is committed to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through targeted actions and measurable outcomes. Our Sustainability team works collaboratively across the university community, setting ambitious targets, implementing impactful projects, and fostering an inclusive sustainability culture. University hosts a diverse range of sustainability events designed to educate, engage, and empower our students, staff, and broader community.

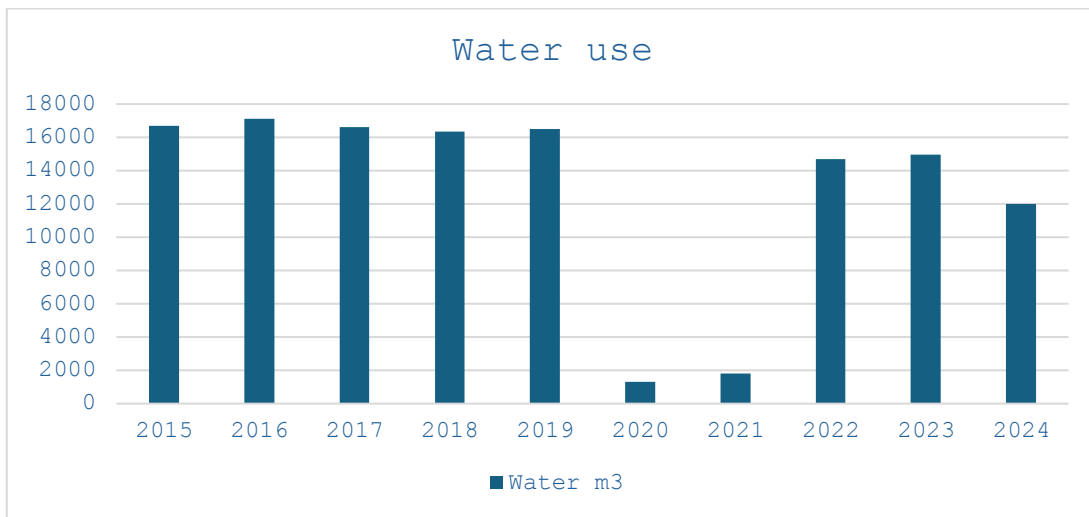


Khazar University prepares students to become leaders and innovators in building a sustainable future. Our sustainability-oriented courses are designed to provide students with the knowledge, values, and practical skills needed to tackle the world's environmental, social, and economic challenges.

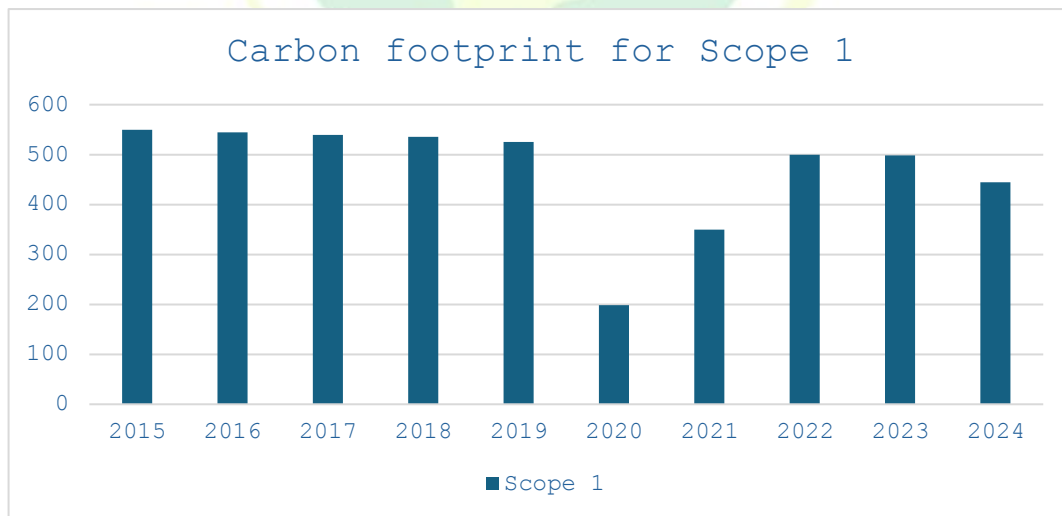


Khazar University ensures that education extends beyond its students/staff by providing open access to learning facilities, training programs and academic resources for the wider community.

The University is committed to reducing water consumption through continuous monitoring and more efficient campus resource management. Although annual figures vary, overall water use after 2020 has remained below pre-2020 levels, indicating progress toward more sustainable water stewardship and reduced consumption across campus operations.



The University also makes efforts to reduce direct greenhouse gas emissions. The chart below shows the University’s commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by tracking and managing Scope 1 emissions over time. While emissions were relatively stable in the earlier years, a substantial decrease is visible from 2020 onward, with the 2024 figure remaining below the pre-2020 baseline.





Strategic Objectives

1. Climate Action in Teaching, Research, and Engagement

Khazar University aims to integrate climate change and environmental sustainability into its academic and institutional life. The University will promote climate literacy among students and staff by embedding climate-related themes into curricula, supporting interdisciplinary teaching, and encouraging research on climate change, environmental protection, green technologies, and sustainable development. Academic departments and research centers will be encouraged to contribute knowledge and practical solutions to environmental challenges through research projects, seminars, publications, and collaborations. The University will also strengthen public engagement by organizing events, campaigns, and partnerships that raise awareness of climate issues and encourage sustainable behavior in the wider community.

2. Sustainable Campus Operations and Environmental Management

Khazar University is committed to improving the environmental performance of its campus operations. This includes reducing energy consumption, promoting energy efficiency, managing water use more responsibly, improving waste reduction and recycling practices, and encouraging more sustainable procurement and resource use. The University will take steps to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity, heating, transport, and other institutional activities. As part of this process, climate considerations will be integrated into facilities management, maintenance, and operational planning. The development of greener campus practices will help reduce environmental impact while also creating a healthier and more responsible university environment.

3. Equality, Health, Well-being, and Climate Resilience

Khazar University recognizes that climate action is closely linked with social responsibility, health, and well-being. The University will promote an inclusive approach to climate action that takes into account the needs of students, staff, and vulnerable groups. A safe, healthy, and supportive campus environment will be fostered through initiatives related to well-being, climate awareness, and environmental health. The University also aims to strengthen its resilience to climate-related risks by considering environmental hazards, emergency preparedness, and adaptive responses in its planning processes. In this way, climate action will be pursued not only as an environmental goal but also as a contributor to social sustainability and institutional resilience.

4. Innovation for Climate Solutions

Innovation will serve as a key driver of the University's climate action efforts. Khazar University will encourage innovative approaches, research-based solutions, and practical experimentation in areas such as emissions reduction, energy efficiency, environmental monitoring, and sustainability education. Staff and students will be encouraged to develop new ideas, projects, and pilot

initiatives that contribute to climate goals. The University will also seek opportunities to support green innovation through interdisciplinary cooperation, external partnerships, and the application of scientific knowledge to real-world environmental problems.

5. Governance, Monitoring, and Reporting

Effective implementation of the Climate Action Strategy requires strong governance and accountability mechanisms. Khazar University will strengthen institutional coordination for climate action through its leadership structures, sustainability bodies, and relevant departments. Responsibilities for implementation, monitoring, and reporting will be clearly distributed across the institution. The University will regularly review its climate-related performance and publish updates through sustainability reports, action plans, and internal monitoring processes. Evidence-based governance will help ensure that climate action remains an ongoing institutional priority and that progress is measurable over time.



Key Areas of Action

Sustainability Education:

The University will expand climate-related learning opportunities for students and staff through structured courses, seminars, trainings, workshops, and awareness campaigns. These efforts will help develop a climate-informed university community.

Energy saving:

The University will work to improve energy efficiency and promote responsible energy use. This includes awareness-raising on energy-saving behavior, improvements in equipment and facilities, and gradual efforts to reduce emissions from campus operations.

Water and Waste Management:

The University will encourage more efficient water use and support better management of waste through reduction, sorting, reuse, and recycling practices.

Sustainable Mobility:

Khazar University will promote more sustainable transport choices where possible, including walking, shared transport and practices, while also raising awareness of transport-related emissions.

Research and Partnerships:

Khazar University will support research and collaboration related to climate change, sustainability, and environmental innovation. Partnerships with academic, governmental, civil society, and international stakeholders will help strengthen the impact of its climate efforts.

Net-zero:

Khazar University aims to progressively reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen its environmental performance over the period 2020-2050, with the ambition of contributing to carbon neutrality and climate resilience through evidence-based and efficient actions.

Priority Actions by Theme

Action Area 1: Carbon Emissions Reduction and Net-Zero Transition

Khazar University is committed to reducing its carbon emissions and working toward **net-zero by 2050**. To support this goal, the University will:

- support national policies and legal frameworks related to efficient use of energy resources;
- reduce on-campus and off-campus energy use through conservation measures and operational improvements;
- improve the energy efficiency of campus heating systems and reduce natural gas consumption;
- reduce electricity consumption by using of energy-efficient lighting, computers, and equipment;
- gradually increase the use of solar panels and other renewable energy technologies in university buildings;
- adopt and apply building energy performance standards in line with national standards;
- increase the University's carbon sequestration potential through tree planting on and around campus;
- promote sustainable transportation options, including walking, bicycles, electric bicycles, and low-emission vehicles;
- encourage behavioral change and reduce the personal carbon footprints of students and staff through awareness activities.

Targets

- **By 2027:** improve heating efficiency and reduce natural gas use.
- **By 2030:** expand the use of solar energy, energy-efficient lighting, and low-emission campus transport.
- **By 2035:** align building energy use standards with national standards and strengthen sustainable mobility infrastructure.

- **By 2050:** achieve net-zero emissions through phased reduction and mitigation measures.

Action Area 2: Water Stewardship and Water Footprint Reduction

Khazar University will take steps to improve water efficiency and reduce its water footprint. The University will:

- reduce water use in toilet facilities and canteens through efficient and low-water technologies;
- introduce water-saving approaches in landscape maintenance and irrigation;
- expand the use of drip irrigation systems in gardens and green areas;
- explore the use of treated greywater for irrigation where feasible;
- conduct awareness campaigns to reduce the personal water footprint of students and staff;
- improve water monitoring systems to support more responsible water use.

Indicative target

- **By 2030:** reduce the University's water footprint by **25%**, compared to the established baseline.

Action Area 3: Waste Reduction and Recycling

Khazar University is committed to minimizing waste generation and improving recycling practices across campus. The University will:

- support national legal frameworks related to industrial and household waste management;
- introduce measures to reduce solid waste generation across campus operations;
- strengthen waste separation, reuse, and recycling practices;

- promote paper reduction through digital systems and electronic communication;
- encourage responsible consumption habits among students and staff;
- improve awareness of waste minimization through campaigns and training activities.

Action Area 4: Sustainable Mobility

To reduce emissions from commuting and transport-related activities, Khazar University will:

- encourage walking and other low-carbon travel options where feasible;
- maintain and expand sustainable transport opportunities;
- promote the use of bicycles and electric bicycles;
- gradually transition university transport vehicles toward lower-emission or electric alternatives;
- raise awareness among staff and students about the environmental impact of transport choices.

Action Area 5: Climate Leadership, Outreach, and Partnerships

Khazar University seeks to strengthen its leadership role in climate action through community engagement and strategic partnerships. The University will:

- organize public campaigns and awareness activities on sustainable development and climate change;
- provide community-based training on climate change, disaster risk reduction, sustainable land use, and sustainable water use;
- collaborate actively with local and international organizations working in the field of sustainable development;
- strengthen cooperation with municipalities and relevant agencies on issues such as air pollution, water management, and environmental protection;

- maintain and deepen collaboration with UN-related offices and international sustainability networks;
- develop practical tools, such as a personal carbon calculator, to encourage greater awareness and participation among students and staff.

Implementation

Implementation of the Climate Action Strategy will be gradual and phased. In the earlier stages, the University will prioritize awareness-building, baseline development, institutional coordination, and initial operational improvements. In later stages, greater emphasis will be placed on measurable reductions in emissions, stronger integration of climate action into university systems, wider participation of staff and students, and more advanced sustainability initiatives. The success of the strategy depends on shared responsibility across the institution. University leadership, academic departments, administrative units, staff, and students all have a role in contributing to climate action and embedding sustainability into everyday university life.

Conclusion

Through its Climate Action Strategy (2020-2050), Khazar University expresses its long-term commitment to addressing climate change systematically and responsibly. By connecting teaching, research, operations, innovation, well-being, and governance, the University seeks to make climate action an integral part of its institutional development and social contribution. The strategy provides a foundation for continuous improvement and collective action toward a more sustainable and resilient future.

