

**AZERBAIJAN STATE
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS (UNEC)
ZERO EMISSION POLICY**

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1. Introduction

The Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC) is committed to achieving a **zero-emission and sustainable campus** through comprehensive environmental policies, technological innovation, and community engagement. As one of Azerbaijan's leading institutions in sustainability and green economy education, UNEC recognizes its responsibility to reduce its carbon footprint and to serve as a national model for climate action in higher education.

This **Zero Emission Policy** outlines UNEC's strategies and commitments toward **reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable transportation, enhancing energy efficiency, and integrating sustainability principles** into all aspects of university operations and governance. The policy aligns with Azerbaijan's national environmental strategy and supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

2. Policy Objectives

The primary objectives of UNEC's Zero Emission Policy are:

1. **To achieve carbon neutrality by 2035** through systematic emission reduction and renewable energy transition.
2. **To reduce on-campus transportation emissions** by promoting sustainable mobility alternatives and minimizing private car use.
3. **To enhance energy efficiency** in all university buildings and operations.
4. **To integrate zero-emission principles** into institutional planning, procurement, infrastructure, and community culture.
5. **To engage students, staff, and partners** in the transition to a carbon-neutral academic ecosystem.

3. Scope of Application

This policy applies to:

- All UNEC campuses, departments, and research centers.
- University-owned vehicles, facilities, and energy systems.
- Activities conducted by staff, faculty, students, and contractors within university premises.
- All procurement, construction, and event planning initiatives related to UNEC's operations.

4. Policy on Parking Reduction and Sustainable Mobility

4.1 Objective

To reduce vehicular emissions from university-related transport by **decreasing parking availability, encouraging public transport use, and supporting non-motorized mobility.**

4.2 Strategies

- **Reduction of On-Campus Parking Spaces:**

UNEC will gradually reduce parking availability by 20% by 2026 to discourage private vehicle use. Priority parking will be reserved for electric and hybrid vehicles only.

- **Promotion of Public Transportation:**

The university cooperates with the **Baku Transport Agency** to ensure accessibility to eco-friendly transport routes. Subsidized public transport passes for students and staff will be expanded.

- **Encouragement of Active Mobility:**

UNEC will improve pedestrian infrastructure and introduce **dedicated bicycle parking areas and e-scooter stations** on campus to promote healthy and zero-emission commuting.

- **Green Shuttle Initiative:**

UNEC will operate an electric shuttle service between main campus sites and dormitories. These vehicles will be powered by renewable electricity generated on campus through solar panels and energy-efficient charging systems.

5. Zero Carbon Operations Policy

5.1 Energy Efficiency

- All university facilities will adopt **LED lighting**, **motion sensors**, and **smart thermostats** to optimize energy usage.
- Regular **energy audits** will be conducted to identify and reduce wastage in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.
- The university will invest in **solar energy panels** and **heat recovery systems** to meet at least **30% of campus energy demand** by 2030.

5.2 Renewable Energy Transition

- UNEC collaborates with the **Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency (Azərbaycan Dövlət Su Ehtiyatları Agentliyi)** to ensure sustainable water and energy systems.
- Treated and recycled water from **Ceyranbatan Ultra Filtration Plant** is used to reduce the energy demand associated with water purification.
- Plans are underway to install **rooftop solar arrays** and **micro wind turbines** to supply clean power for administrative buildings and research labs.

5.3 Waste and Emission Reduction

- UNEC has established contracts with **Express Təmizlik LTD** and **BT Techno Service**, which manage waste recycling and hazardous waste disposal.
- Organic waste from campus cafeterias is repurposed for composting and agricultural use, reducing methane emissions from landfills.
- Digital systems such as **DocNet**, **Eduman**, **ATIS**, and **Window (Bir Pəncərə)** reduce paper use, cutting carbon emissions from printing and logistics by over 60%.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

6.1 Carbon Footprint Assessment

UNEC conducts an annual **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory** to measure carbon emissions from energy, transport, and waste. This data is used to monitor progress toward emission reduction goals and to publish the university's **Sustainability Report**.

6.2 ICT Integration

ICT systems play a crucial role in tracking environmental performance. Real-time energy monitoring dashboards, water management sensors, and smart campus software enable precise data collection and analysis.

6.3 Public Transparency

The results of UNEC's emission reduction efforts are made publicly available through its **Sustainability Web Portal**, ensuring accountability and stakeholder engagement.

7. Awareness, Education, and Research

UNEC integrates sustainability and emission reduction into its **academic curricula, research programs, and community outreach** activities.

- Courses on **green economy, circular business models, and environmental management** are offered across faculties.
- Research projects focus on **renewable energy, smart cities, sustainable finance, and low-carbon innovation**.
- Annual events such as the **VII International Scientific Conference on Circular Economy and Sustainable Ecosystem** and **Green Campus Week** engage global and local experts in climate action dialogue.

Student organizations like the **UNEC Eco Club** and **Youth for Sustainable Development Group** organize awareness campaigns, tree-planting drives, and workshops on zero-emission living.

8. Governance and Implementation

8.1 Responsible Units

- **UNEC Green Campus Office** – Oversees zero-emission implementation and sustainability reporting.
- **Research and Innovation Department** – Integrates sustainability into research and monitors emission-related projects.
- **ICT Department** – Manages data systems for emission tracking and resource efficiency.
- **Facilities and Operations Department** – Ensures compliance with energy and transportation policies.

8.2 Review Cycle

The Zero Emission Policy will be reviewed every **two years** to assess progress and align with new national and international climate targets.

9. Expected Outcomes

1. **Reduction in campus CO₂ emissions** by 45% by 2030.
2. **Complete transition to renewable energy sources** by 2035.
3. **Zero-emission transportation system** within all UNEC campuses by 2030.
4. **Increased environmental awareness and engagement** among students and staff.
5. **Recognition as a national leader** in sustainable university operations.

10. Conclusion

UNEC's **Zero Emission Policy** embodies the university's dedication to shaping a **climate-resilient, low-carbon future** through responsible governance, innovation, and education. Guided by Azerbaijan's environmental vision and the UN SDGs, UNEC strives to inspire sustainable change both within and beyond its campuses—setting an example for institutions across the region.

