

**AZERBAIJAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ECONOMICS (UNEC)  
GREEN UNEC POLICY**

## **Green UNEC Policy**

### **Table of Contents**

#### **Section 1. Vision And Mission**

#### **Section 2. Policy Objectives**

#### **Section 3. Policy Scope and Applicability**

#### **Section 4. Governance and Responsibility**

4.1 Green UNEC Committee

4.2 Environmental and Infrastructure Office

4.3 Departmental Responsibilities

#### **Section 5. Legal Compliance Clause**

#### **Section 6. Sustainable Energy Management**

6.1 Renewable Energy Development

6.2 Energy Efficiency

6.3 Carbon Emissions Reduction

#### **Section 7. Water Management and Conservation**

7.1 Water Efficiency and Measurement

7.2 Water Recycling and Reuse

7.3 Sustainable Landscaping

7.4 Water Awareness and Community Education

#### **Section 8. Sustainable Construction and Infrastructure**

8.1 Building Standards

8.2 Sustainable Materials and Waste Reduction

8.3 Periodic Renovation and Retrofitting

#### **Section 9. Sustainable Procurement**

#### **Section 10. Biodiversity, Forests, and Ecosystem Protection**

10.1 Green Space Development

10.2 Protection of Wildlife and Anti-Hunting Policy

10.3 Soil and Ecosystem Protection

10.4 Aquatic Ecosystems

**Section 11. Education, Research, and Public Engagement**

11.1 Curriculum Integration

11.2 Public Lectures and Community Learning

11.3 Educational Programs and Youth Engagement

11.4 Partnerships and Collaboration

**Section 12. Community and Global Impact**

12.1 Local Community Development

12.2 National and International Cooperation

12.3 Promotion of Sustainable Behavior

**Section 13. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting**

13.1 Data Collection and Monitoring

13.2 Reporting

13.3 Continuous Improvement

**Section 14. Commitment to the Future**

**Section 15. Risk Management and Climate Resilience**

**Section 16. Green Office Program**

**Section 17. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

**Section 18. External Verification and Audits**

**Section 19. Funding and Resource Allocation**

**Section 20. Incentives and Recognition**

## Section 1. Vision And Mission

### Vision

UNEC envisions a sustainable and resilient university that harmonizes academic excellence with environmental responsibility. The university seeks to become a national and regional leader in higher education sustainability, promoting green innovation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable economic growth through its teaching, research, and operations.

### Mission

The mission of the Green UNEC Policy is to integrate sustainability principles into every aspect of university life-academics, infrastructure, operations, governance, and community engagement-ensuring UNEC's contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

## Section 2. Policy Objectives

The Green UNEC Policy aims to:

1. Promote responsible and efficient use of natural resources, including water, energy, and materials.
2. Encourage renewable energy generation and reduce carbon emissions.
3. Protect and enhance campus biodiversity, soil, and aquatic ecosystems.
4. Foster environmental literacy and awareness through education, research, and community engagement.
5. Integrate sustainability into UNEC's governance, procurement, and infrastructure development.
6. Support Azerbaijan's national sustainability goals and international environmental commitments.

## Section 3. Policy Scope and Applicability

This Policy applies to all UNEC campuses, facilities, staff, students, contractors, and visitors. All stakeholders are expected to comply with the provisions of this Policy within their respective responsibilities.

## Section 4. Governance and Responsibility

### 4.1 Green UNEC Committee

The Green UNEC Committee oversees policy implementation and is chaired by the Vice Rector for Administrative and Economic Affairs. Members include representatives from academic faculties, the Environmental and Infrastructure Office, student associations, and external environmental advisors.

#### **4.2 Environmental and Infrastructure Office**

This office is responsible for:

- Monitoring water and energy use.
- Managing waste and recycling systems.
- Overseeing biodiversity and landscaping projects.
- Preparing the Annual Sustainability Performance Report.

#### **4.3 Departmental Responsibilities**

Every academic and administrative unit must integrate the principles of the Green UNEC Policy into daily operations, teaching, and research activities.

### **Section 5. Legal Compliance Clause**

UNEC shall comply with all applicable environmental legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and relevant international environmental agreements. In case of inconsistency between this Policy and legal requirements, legal provisions shall prevail.

### **Section 6. Sustainable Energy Management**

#### **6.1 Renewable Energy Development**

UNEC invests in solar panels and wind turbines to generate clean, renewable energy on campus. Pilot installations have been completed on the main Baku campus, with expansion plans through 2030 to achieve 40% renewable energy generation capacity.

#### **6.2 Energy Efficiency**

The university exclusively uses energy-efficient appliances and lighting systems (A++ rated or higher) across all facilities. Motion sensors and smart energy meters monitor usage, reduce waste, and report consumption data for performance optimization.

#### **6.3 Carbon Emissions Reduction**

UNEC aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030, compared with the 2024 baseline, through renewable investments, energy efficiency programs, and sustainable transport initiatives.

## Section 7. Water Management and Conservation

### 7.1 Water Efficiency and Measurement

UNEC maintains a comprehensive water monitoring system, measuring total water intake from mains, rainwater harvesting, and greywater reuse. Smart meters collect data for analysis and annual reporting.

### 7.2 Water Recycling and Reuse

UNEC is committed to water recycling, collecting rainwater and treating greywater for reuse in irrigation, cleaning, and sanitation systems. These initiatives reduce reliance on municipal water and promote circular resource management.

### 7.3 Sustainable Landscaping

Across 26 hectares, UNEC cultivates native and drought-tolerant vegetation to minimize irrigation demand. Rainwater supports most green areas, supplemented by efficient drip systems during dry months.

### 7.4 Water Awareness and Community Education

Through workshops, public lectures, and community collaborations, UNEC raises awareness about responsible water use and pollution prevention, aligning with SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

## Section 8. Sustainable Construction and Infrastructure

### 8.1 Building Standards

All new and renovated buildings, including historical structures, comply with Azerbaijan State Construction Norms (AzDTN) and LEED-equivalent green building standards to maximize energy and water efficiency.

### 8.2 Sustainable Materials and Waste Reduction

UNEC prioritizes environmentally certified materials and implements waste separation and recycling during construction projects.

### 8.3 Periodic Renovation and Retrofitting

Historical and modern facilities are periodically upgraded with modern insulation, efficient plumbing, and low-flow fixtures, ensuring that heritage conservation and sustainability coexist harmoniously.

## Section 9. Sustainable Procurement

UNEC prioritizes procurement of environmentally responsible goods and services, considering lifecycle environmental impacts, energy efficiency, recyclability, and supplier sustainability practices.

## Section 10. Biodiversity, Forests, and Ecosystem Protection

### 10.1 Green Space Development

UNEC manages and protects its forest vegetation and biosphere zones, expanding tree cover to improve air quality and biodiversity. Native plant species are prioritized to support local ecology.

### 10.2 Protection of Wildlife and Anti-Hunting Policy

Hunting, trapping, or disturbance of wildlife on UNEC's land is strictly prohibited. The university enforces an anti-hunting policy and collaborates with environmental agencies for habitat protection.

### 10.3 Soil and Ecosystem Protection

UNEC promotes sustainable landscaping and organic maintenance techniques to prevent soil erosion, degradation, and contamination. Research initiatives in soil health and sustainable agriculture are encouraged.

### 10.4 Aquatic Ecosystems

The university actively supports lakes and rivers located on its land, protecting aquatic habitats through sustainable water use, pollution prevention, and ecological restoration projects.

## Section 11. Education, Research, and Public Engagement

### 11.1 Curriculum Integration

Sustainability principles are embedded into economics, management, and environmental science curricula. Students engage in applied research projects addressing climate change, resource management, and sustainable development.

### 11.2 Public Lectures and Community Learning

UNEC periodically organizes public lectures, open forums, and sustainability weeks to educate citizens, schools, and policymakers about sustainable living and environmental protection.

### **11.3 Educational Programs and Youth Engagement**

Special programs-such as “Youth for Sustainability” and “Green Ambassadors”- empower students to take leadership roles in promoting sustainable practices on and off campus.

### **11.4 Partnerships and Collaboration**

UNEC collaborates with national agencies, international organizations, and private partners, including UNDP Azerbaijan, Azersu, ADSEA and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, to advance sustainability and water security goals.

## **Section 12. Community and Global Impact**

### **12.1 Local Community Development**

Through its Green UNEC Outreach Program, the university supports local municipalities in adopting water-saving technologies, green spaces, and renewable energy practices.

### **12.2 National and International Cooperation**

UNEC contributes policy expertise to national climate and water management strategies and participates in international SDG forums to share knowledge and best practices.

### **12.3 Promotion of Sustainable Behavior**

Both on campus and in surrounding communities, UNEC promotes conscious consumption, encouraging staff, students, and residents to reduce water and energy waste through awareness campaigns and digital engagement tools.

## **Section 13. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting**

### **13.1 Data Collection and Monitoring**

All energy, water, and waste data are continuously monitored using digital tracking systems. Performance is benchmarked against annual targets defined by the Green UNEC Committee.

### **13.2 Reporting**

The Annual Sustainability Report publishes UNEC’s progress toward SDG targets, greenhouse gas reductions, and water efficiency metrics. These reports are made publicly available and submitted to relevant national authorities.

### **13.3 Continuous Improvement**

The Green UNEC Policy is reviewed every three years. Feedback from staff, students, and community partners informs revisions and the introduction of new sustainability initiatives.

## Section 14. Commitment to the Future

UNEC's sustainability journey is dynamic and evolving. The Green UNEC Policy embodies the university's long-term commitment to:

- Integrating sustainability into economic education and institutional culture.
- Demonstrating leadership in renewable energy and responsible resource use.
- Preserving biodiversity, soil, and aquatic ecosystems for future generations.
- Promoting environmental literacy as a foundation for sustainable national development.

Through collective action, innovation, and education, Azerbaijan State University of Economics affirms its dedication to building a greener, smarter, and more sustainable future for Azerbaijan and the world.

## Section 15. Risk Management and Climate Resilience

UNEC shall identify environmental risks affecting campus infrastructure, operations, and academic continuity and shall develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to enhance institutional climate resilience.

## Section 16. Green Office Program

UNEC shall implement a Green Office framework focused on:

- minimizing paper consumption
- reducing office energy use
- promoting digital workflows
- shared equipment systems
- sustainable workplace behavior

## Section 17. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

UNEC shall establish measurable sustainability KPIs including but not limited to:

- energy intensity per m<sup>2</sup>
- water consumption per capita
- recycling rate (%)
- carbon emissions per student

Progress shall be reviewed annually.

### **Section 18. External Verification and Audits**

UNEC may conduct independent sustainability audits and benchmarking exercises to validate performance, ensure transparency, and improve policy effectiveness.

### **Section 19. Funding and Resource Allocation**

UNEC shall allocate dedicated financial and institutional resources annually to implement sustainability initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and research activities.

### **Section 20. Incentives and Recognition**

UNEC may establish sustainability awards, grants, and recognition programs to encourage students, staff, and departments to contribute to innovative environmental solutions.

