

**AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL AND INDUSTRY  
UNIVERSITY**

**SDG – 14 REPORT**



ASOIU plays a crucial role in supporting the objectives of **SDG 14: Life Below Water** by promoting sustainable industrial practices, environmental consciousness in petroleum engineering, and research with implications for the **Caspian Sea** ecosystem. Through strategic education, research, and collaboration, ASOIU ensures that future industry leaders are trained to act responsibly in their interaction with water bodies and marine ecosystems.

## 1. Institutional Commitment to SDG 14

- **Environmental Responsibility in Strategic Vision:** ASOIU's development strategy (2021–2030) emphasizes ecological awareness in all educational and research programs. While focused on the oil and industry sectors, sustainability—especially in relation to aquatic ecosystems—is a growing priority.
- **UNESCO-Aligned Values:** As a UNESCO UNITWIN Chair host institution, ASOIU aligns its environmental focus with global standards, including sustainability in the **Caspian Basin** region.

## 2. Teaching and Curriculum

- **Curriculum Integration:** Programs such as Environmental Engineering and Petroleum Ecology include units on:
  - Offshore platform waste management
  - Marine pollution from industrial sources
  - Oil spill contingency planning



- **Student Theses:** Students have completed capstone projects and bachelor theses on topics such as:
  - Simulating oil spill dispersion in the Caspian Sea
  - Evaluating eco-friendly drilling fluids
  - Marine biodiversity near Azerbaijan’s coastal drilling zones

### 3. Research and Innovation

- **Applied Research in Caspian Context:** ASOIU researchers study the ecological impact of oil extraction in the Caspian region. In 2024, the university co-hosted the **Caspian Basin Conference on Georesources and Environmental Impact**, showcasing interdisciplinary work on seabed ecosystems and hydrocarbon mitigation technologies.



- **Laboratory Innovation:** The university’s laboratories support environmentally safe technologies, such as materials for spill absorption and treatment of wastewater containing hydrocarbons.

### 5. Student & Community Engagement

- **Student-Led Environmental Projects:** Through the Student Scientific Society and ECO Clubs, ASOIU students conduct:
  - Awareness campaigns about marine plastic pollution
  - Field visits to the Caspian coast for coastal monitoring exercises
  - Urban waste collection campaigns to prevent river-to-sea waste flow



- **Hackathons & Eco Challenges:** Events such as the **UFAZ Environmental Hackathon 2024** included water sustainability themes, such as marine sensors and ocean-cleaning robotics.



## 6. Future Directions

- **Establishment of a Caspian Environmental Research Group** within the university to focus on water pollution and biodiversity.
- **Integration of “Blue Economy” concepts** into the Petroleum Economics and Industrial Policy curriculum.

- **Expansion of Coastal Studies Field Courses** in partnership with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

## **7. Conclusion**

Though its primary mission is engineering and industry, ASOIU makes a **measurable and meaningful contribution to SDG 14** by training responsible professionals, conducting relevant research, and embedding ecological ethics in its academic culture. By aligning its activities with the **protection of the Caspian Sea**, ASOIU supports global efforts to preserve life below water.