AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL AND INDUSTRY UNIVERSITY

SDG – 6 REPORT

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) has developed a comprehensive Sustainability Plan for 2023–2030, emphasizing its commitment to environmental stewardship, economic security, and social justice. While the plan addresses various sustainability goals, specific initiatives directly targeting Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) — Clean Water and Sanitation — are not explicitly detailed. However, several components of the plan and related activities contribute to the objectives of SDG 6:

1. **Sustainability Process Integration**: ASOIU's sustainability ecosystem integrates scientific research, practical experiments, and entrepreneurial efforts to add socio-economic value and promote environmental stewardship. This holistic approach facilitates addressing challenges related to water quality and sanitation through interdisciplinary collaboration

2. **Research in Water Resource Management**: The university supports research projects focusing on environmental sustainability. For instance, the project titled "Evaluation of the impact of climate change on the water resources of Karabakh using innovative methods" aims to assess and address water resource challenges in the region, aligning with SDG 6 targets.

3. **Academic Programs Emphasizing Water Treatment**: ASOIU offers MSc in Water Reseorcues and Management that include competencies in data acquistion, hydrological analysis and modelling. Graduates are equipped to develop scientific and technological solutions in area such as water treatment, contributing to advancements in clean water accessibility and sanitation practices.

4. **Collaborative Research on Water Sustainability**: ASOIU engages in international collaborations focusing on water sustainability. For example, the university has participated in conferences addressing the response of Caspian Basin ecosystems to climate and land use changes, which are pertinent to regional water resource management and sustainability.

These initiatives reflect ASOIU's dedication to integrating sustainability into its academic and research endeavors, contributing to the broader objectives of SDG 6 by promoting clean water and sanitation through education, research, and community engagement.

Contribution of ASOIU to SDG 6: Launch of the Master's Program in Water Resources and Management

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, ASOIU has launched an innovative **Master's Program in Water Resources and Management** together with Strousbourg University. This program is a strategic initiative that enhances ASOIU's contribution to addressing global and regional water challenges through academic excellence and applied research.

Strategic Relevance:

This academic offering aligns directly with SDG 6 targets, particularly:

- **6.1:** Ensuring universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water.
- **6.3:** Improving water quality by reducing pollution and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals.
- **6.5:** Implementing integrated water resources management at all levels.

Through this program, ASOIU strengthens national capacity in water sector governance, supports sustainable urban and rural development, and contributes to environmental resilience in Azerbaijan and the wider Caspian region.

“Evaluation of the impact of climate change on the water resources of Karabakh using innovative methods” project

As part of its institutional commitment to sustainability and scientific research, a faculty delegation from ASOIU undertook an applied field study in the liberated territories of the Karabakh region. The research focused on evaluating the availability, quality, and management potential of water resources in the area, with specific emphasis on:

- Hydrogeological surveys and terrain diagnostics
- Assessment of water source sustainability
- Collection of field data for water quality analysis
- Environmental impact considerations regarding future water infrastructure

The field research contributes to a broader effort aimed at supporting the sustainable resettlement and development of the Karabakh region through effective resource management. The investigation aligns with **Target 6.1 (safe and affordable drinking water)** and **Target 6.5 (integrated water resources management)** of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the study provides data for ongoing scientific projects at ASOIU and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration between environmental engineering, chemical technology, and water resource management departments.

“Caspian Basin in Transition: Bridging Geosciences and Environmental Challenges 2024” Conference

ASOIU, in collaboration with CASPISNET, EiGroup, ARPA IB, and with sponsorship from BP, hosted the prestigious four-day international scientific conference **“Caspian Basin in Transition: Bridging Geosciences and Environmental Challenges 2024.”**

The conference addressed four principal themes, all of which intersect with water management and SDG 6 objectives:

1. **Exploring and Sustaining Geo-resources of the Caspian Basin** – Sustainable use of groundwater and surface water in energy and industrial sectors.
2. **Geohazards Assessment and Prevention** – Mitigation of water-related hazards such as mudflows, floods, and subsidence.

Topics related to **water resource conservation**, **clean water accessibility**, and **resilience of ecosystems to anthropogenic pressure** were central to many of the discussions and presentations.

By aligning academic inquiry with practical environmental challenges, the conference reinforced ASOIU’s role in addressing SDG 6 through **knowledge generation, stakeholder engagement, and applied research** in water and environmental systems.