

AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL AND  
INDUSTRY UNIVERSITY



## STUDENT-LED SOCIETY POLICY





Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University

Those charged with governance

Sustainability Committee

**Student-led Society Policy**

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An official copy of this policy can be obtained upon request.

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## Mission of the policy

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) acknowledges the crucial role that extracurricular activities play in developing well-rounded professionals. In this regard, student-led societies are of great importance as they foster collaboration, ignite passions, strengthen community involvement, support skill enhancement, and cultivate a sense of belonging. The objective is to harness the innovative and intellectual potential of these student-led societies to actively contribute to ASOIU's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), enhancing the university's capacity to address sustainability challenges—regardless of their scale or scope.

## ASOIU: Fostering Student Engagement and Development

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) offers a dynamic environment that goes beyond traditional academics. The university actively encourages student involvement in various organizations and initiatives aimed at cultivating well-rounded individuals who are prepared for future challenges. ASOIU promotes inclusivity and diversity within its student-led societies, ensuring that every student—regardless of their academic field, cultural background, or personal circumstances—has access to extracurricular opportunities and leadership roles.

ASOIU also encourages student organizations to incorporate sustainability principles into their activities. This includes fostering environmental awareness, supporting sustainable development, and contributing to initiatives that align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key student-led groups at ASOIU include:

- **Student Youth Organization (SYO):** Established in 2005, SYO provides students with opportunities to explore a wide range of interests. Through clubs like ASOIU Model United Nations (MUN), Engineering, Conversation Clubs, and projects centered on Patriotism, Culture, and Innovation, students develop key skills such as:
  - Representation
  - Critical thinking
  - Research
  - Writing
  - Language fluency
  - Innovation and project execution

- **ASOIU Volunteers:** Operating since 2015, this group includes more than 1,500 student volunteers. They play a vital role in promoting social responsibility and civic engagement both within the university and in the wider community. Their contributions include:
  - Participating in major international events hosted in Azerbaijan (e.g., Eurovision, Islamic Solidarity Games, Formula 1, Teknofest)
  - Volunteering for COP29, the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku (November 2024)
- **Student Scientific Society:** This group brings together students with a strong interest in scientific research, innovation, and creative projects. With the guidance of faculty mentors, students are supported in developing and executing academic and applied research initiatives.

Collaboration with Other Institutions: The Student Scientific Society actively engages in joint initiatives with other academic and research institutions, fostering knowledge exchange and broader learning experiences.

#### **Student-Led Startups:**

The society supports the development of student-initiated startups by providing mentorship, resources, and platforms for innovation.

#### **Enhancement of Scientific Ideas:**

Students are encouraged to refine their research and scientific concepts through continuous guidance, collaborative work, and academic feedback.

#### **Participation in Competitions and Festivals:**

Students are motivated to take part in national and international scientific competitions, exhibitions, and festivals, showcasing their projects and gaining recognition.

#### **Sustainability Initiatives**

ASOIU places strong emphasis on environmental responsibility through the following dedicated groups:

##### **Sustainability Group:**

This group advocates for responsible consumption, recycling, and environmentally conscious behavior across the university. It also organizes networking events and social activities to foster student interaction and encourage participation in sustainability-focused efforts.

##### **Green Energy and Environmental Protection Group:**

Aiming to position ASOIU as a hub for green energy and environmental leadership, this group builds on existing collaborations with local and international partners. They propose new partnerships with energy companies and actively contribute to sustainable practices and projects within the university campus.

##### **AzIIEduLab**

Launched in 2022, AzIIEduLab provides students with a range of training sessions and seminars delivered by industry professionals and experienced senior students. This initiative enhances students' academic journeys and equips them with practical skills for real-world success.

#### **Implementation of the Policy**

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) and its leadership are fully committed to the principle of "Sustainability for All"—a guiding framework that informs both daily operations and long-term strategic planning.

ASOIU embraces a whole-institution approach to sustainability, emphasizing the active involvement of every member of the university community, as well as external stakeholders. This collaborative spirit ensures that sustainability goals are pursued collectively. The university fosters strong partnerships between student-led societies and external entities, including industry experts, NGOs, and academic units. These partnerships offer students valuable mentorship, hands-on experience, and the chance to contribute to real-world solutions for pressing sustainability challenges.

Key pillars of this approach include:

- **Knowledge Building:** ASOIU organizes regular workshops and training sessions focused on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), led by subject matter experts. These sessions aim to empower students, faculty, and administrative staff alike.
- **Practical Engagement:** Both researchers and students are actively involved in sustainability-oriented projects, dedicating their skills, time, and resources to meaningful initiatives.
- **Collaborative Impact:** The university works closely with non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and private sector partners to pool resources and maximize the reach and effectiveness of its sustainability actions.
- **Ongoing Development:** ASOIU prioritizes continuous feedback from internal and external stakeholders to address existing challenges and identify new opportunities for growth in sustainability efforts.

Through unified action and shared responsibility, ASOIU remains committed to shaping a more sustainable future for all.

### Resource Allocation

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) dedicates specific financial and logistical resources to support student-led initiatives that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To ensure equal access and fairness, a transparent funding application process is established, allowing all student organizations to secure the necessary support for implementing impactful projects.

Key mechanisms supporting these efforts include:

- **The SDG Innovation Fund**, which provides financial backing for student-driven projects that contribute to the advancement of the SDGs.
- **Establishment of SDG Hubs**, which serve as platforms for skill-building and knowledge-sharing through training sessions and educational programs focused on best practices in SDG implementation.
- **European Commission Grant through Horizon 2020**: ASOIU participates in the CAMPAIGNers project (Citizens Acting on Mitigation Pathways through Active Implementation of a Goalsetting Network), which plays a crucial role in advancing the university's sustainability objectives. This grant significantly boosts ASOIU's financial capacity, supporting ambitious initiatives in areas such as renewable energy adoption, energy efficiency, and institutional capacity building.
- **Access to a diverse panel of mentors** with specialized expertise in the SDGs, providing students with guidance and professional insight to maximize the impact of their initiatives.

Through these targeted supports, ASOIU empowers its students to take an active role in driving sustainable change within the university and beyond.

### Monitoring

- Establishment of an independent body to conduct annual evaluations of impact.
- Introduction of a constructive feedback system within student organizations to enhance performance and outcomes.
- Presentation of the ASOIU Awards to recognize and celebrate significant contributions toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Targets

#### Empowering a Sustainable Future

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) is dedicated to embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all aspects of its operations and fostering a culture of sustainability within the university community. To realize these objectives, specific targets are defined as strategic initiatives.



**Raising Awareness:**

- Launch and execute university-wide awareness campaigns aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Conduct ongoing workshops, seminars, and events led by SDG experts, specifically designed for student engagement and education.

**Research and Collaboration:**

- Promote and support involvement in interdisciplinary research initiatives aimed at advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Strengthen partnerships with international universities and organizations to enable student exchange programs and collaborative efforts in support of the SDGs.

**Student Engagement:**

- Expand the organization of student-led workshops and training sessions centered on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Designate specific financial resources to back student projects and research aligned with the SDGs;
- Create a platform that links student-led organizations with academic and industry trainers to offer mentorship and support on SDG-related initiatives.

**Partnerships and Action:**

- Establish strategic collaborations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local businesses, and relevant companies to jointly work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Execute targeted actions aligned with the SDGs to tackle specific issues within the ASOIU community.
- Through these efforts, ASOIU aims to equip students, faculty, and staff to actively contribute to shaping a more sustainable future.