

2.5.4 - Does your university as a body prioritise purchase of products from local, sustainable sources?

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) integrates sustainability principles into its institutional procurement and supply-chain management. Recognising the importance of local economic development, food security, and environmentally responsible consumption, ASOIU's procurement framework prioritises purchases from local, ethical, and sustainable sources. This practice not only reduces the university's environmental footprint but also strengthens collaboration with regional producers and suppliers, contributing to Azerbaijan's sustainable economic and agricultural ecosystem.

1. Institutional Policy on Sustainable Procurement

ASOIU's Procurement Policy establishes the foundation for environmentally and socially responsible purchasing. The document defines sustainability as a core principle of all procurement processes, emphasising:

- Preference for locally produced goods and services, particularly those adhering to environmental and ethical standards.
- Integration of sustainability criteria — such as resource efficiency, recyclability, and ethical labour practices — into supplier evaluation.
- Commitment to transparency, accountability, and value-for-money principles in all purchasing activities.

This policy ensures that procurement decisions consider the triple bottom line: economic, social, and environmental impact.

<https://asoiu.edu.az/upload/sustainability/pdf/policy/Procurement%20Policy.pdf>

2. Implementation of Local and Sustainable Purchasing

ASOIU operationalises its sustainable procurement framework through concrete actions and criteria in tender and supplier selection processes:

- **Local Supplier Preference:**

The university gives procurement priority to Azerbaijani producers and regional SMEs that provide eco-certified or sustainably sourced products. This supports the local economy, reduces transport emissions, and encourages regional circular-economy models.

- **Sustainability Screening:**

Suppliers are assessed for compliance with environmental and ethical standards, including responsible material sourcing, waste minimisation, and fair labour practices.

- **Energy-Efficient and Eco-Friendly Goods:**

For campus facilities, preference is given to energy-saving appliances, low-emission materials, and recyclable office supplies.

- **Sustainable Food Procurement:**

When contracting catering or food supply services, ASOIU prioritises locally sourced agricultural products, aligning with SDG 2 (“Zero Hunger”) and SDG 12 (“Responsible Consumption and Production”).

3. Sustainability Oversight and Monitoring

ASOIU has established internal monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective application of its sustainable procurement policies:

- **Procurement Committee Oversight:**

All major procurement decisions are reviewed by a sustainability-trained committee to verify supplier compliance with environmental and social standards.

- **Sustainability Office Coordination:**

The ASOIU Sustainability Development Center collaborates with the procurement department to integrate sustainability metrics into supplier evaluation forms and contract templates.

- **Periodic Review:**

Procurement procedures are reviewed annually to ensure continued alignment with sustainability targets, including reducing the share of imported materials and expanding local sourcing networks.

Conclusion

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) prioritises the purchase of products from local and sustainable sources across its procurement operations. Through the implementation of its Procurement Policy and cooperation with local suppliers, ASOIU ensures that all purchasing decisions support regional development, environmental protection, and responsible resource use.