

Green University Policy of the EI «Almaty Management University»

Purpose of the Document

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the principles of the SDGs and ESG and defines the priorities of the Green Policy of the Non-profit Organization “Almaty Management University” (hereinafter – the University).

Scope of the Document

This Policy applies to the University employees engaged in the concept of the green university within their respective authority.

References

This Policy has been developed in accordance with:

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- The principles of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG);
- The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 27, 2007 No. 319-III “On Education”;
- The Charter of the Non-profit Organization “Almaty Management University.”

In case the provisions of this Policy contradict (updated) provisions of the legislation or applicable international standards, such provisions of the legislation and/or international standards shall prevail.

Terms and Abbreviations

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a universal call to action to end poverty, protect our planet, improve the quality of life, and enhance prospects for all people around the world. The 17 SDGs were developed by the United Nations General Assembly.

Sustainable procurement – the process of acquiring goods, works, and services that takes into account not only cost and quality but also their environmental, social, and economic impacts.

Within the framework of the Green University Policy, AlmaU integrates aspects of sustainable development into the educational process, professional training, campus operations, and student engagement. This includes, first and foremost, the creation and

development of “green” infrastructure, the establishment and support of eco-startups, and the promotion of student and staff initiatives in environmental projects, among others.

The University recognizes that building and maintaining the Green University project is a long-term endeavor that requires continuous strategic development and improvement of results. The process can start small — by increasing the environmental friendliness of the campus and “greening” office operations.

Policy Objectives

- Ensure responsible spending of the University’s financial resources;
- Minimize the environmental footprint of procured goods and services;
- Support local producers and small businesses;
- Reduce the amount of waste and carbon emissions;
- Decrease the consumption of non-renewable resources.

One of the key components of the Green University policy is the concept of the Green Office:

- **«Green Office»** – an internal environmental policy aimed at fostering careful use of natural resources and reducing the environmental footprint caused by office operations.

The organization of a Green Office is based on the core principles of minimizing the University’s waste through rational and responsible use of environmental resources. Implementing the Green Office principles helps reduce expenses, improve the ecological situation, and cultivate environmentally responsible behavior among students and staff, ultimately contributing to the creation of a more sustainable and energy-efficient society.

The Green University is built upon AlmaU’s core policies:

Sustainable Food Policy

Sustainable Development Policy

Sustainable Finance Policy

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy of the Non-profit Organization “Almaty Management University”

Anti-Smoking Policy

Corporate Ethics Code

Regulation on the Center for Sustainable Development

Student Organization SDG Legion

Main Directions of the Green University Policy:

- **Infrastructure**

AlmaU actively develops ecological infrastructure: the total area covered by greenery is 6395.75 m², featuring a variety of species such as *Ulmus parvifolia* (Chinese elm), *Bétula* (birch), *Thúja occidentális* (western thuja), *Physocarpus* shrub, *Hibiscus*, *Píceá* (spruce), *Acacia*, *Pínus* (pine), *Mālus* (apple), *Juníperus* (juniper), *rosa* (roses), *Syrínga* (lilac), *Ácer* (maple), *Catalpa*, and many others.

Special attention is given to drought-resistant trees and plants such as *Picea pungens*, *Ulmus Laevis*, *Juníperus horizontális*, *Thuja occidentalis*, etc. Tree species that require infrequent watering and are drought-resistant are planted on the campus. The regional climate has relative humidity, which helps reduce watering frequency. The University annually increases the number of green spaces on campus.

All green areas and pedestrian paths on campus are open to students, faculty, and city residents. In spring and summer, the Green Detox area operates, where anyone can relax on the lawns, breathe fresh air, listen to birdsong, and recharge with the energy of nature.

The University also cares for students and staff indoors, annually allocating a budget for purchasing indoor plants and trees to green interior spaces and halls, improving air quality and reducing psychological stress from the workday.

- **Energy Efficiency**

To reduce overall energy consumption and carbon footprint, the University follows key principles:

1. Energy-efficient lighting. AlmaU has fully transitioned to energy-saving LED lights in all rooms. Motion sensors are installed in all restrooms.
2. Improving building energy efficiency. Standard air conditioners are gradually replaced with inverter models (lower energy consumption). To reduce energy use and the need for replacement cartridges, office printers were removed, and one shared printer per floor was installed.
3. Energy-saving IT policy. The University actively uses cloud technologies: all documentation and archives have been integrated into the Documentolog electronic document management system since 2015, connected to all official certification centers in Kazakhstan, with a mobile app for Android and iOS. LMS Platonus is also used for internal processes, reducing the need for local equipment and infrastructure, leading to energy savings.
4. Fostering eco-friendly habits and behavior. All staff follow office energy-saving rules: turn off lights when there is sufficient daylight; turn off all electrical devices when leaving the office. Each year, the entire campus participates in Earth Hour initiatives to reduce energy consumption.

The University conducts educational programs/seminars/courses on sustainable development to raise awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the SDGs and their practical application: Principles of Corporate Sustainability, Sustainable Development: Principles and Practice, Service Learning, and others.

To foster a culture of healthy eating, the University participates in research and activities promoting a healthy lifestyle in partnership with local, regional, and international organizations. AlmaU has implemented a Sustainable Food Policy.

To combat smoking, the University enforces an Anti-Smoking Policy on campus.

5. Transport Infrastructure Improvement. To promote eco-friendly transportation such as bicycles, scooters, and other sustainable transport, bike racks have been installed on campus. Support is also provided for students using the Onai public transport card.

- **Water and Maximum Water Reuse Policy**

AlmaU strives to conduct its educational activities in accordance with international environmental standards, while also fostering environmental awareness among staff, students, and university visitors.

For effective water resource management on campus, minimizing water consumption, and maximizing water reuse, the University implements the following practices:

1. Six drinking water fountains are installed on campus, with regularly replaced filters, available free of charge for all students, staff, and visitors.
2. Optimization of water consumption – reducing the volume of water used through water-saving technologies. Most restrooms on campus are equipped with dual-flush systems. Drip irrigation sprinklers are installed for green spaces on campus.
3. Ensuring compliance with all national legislation (On the approval of rules for providing state services in the regulation of water use. Order of the Acting Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 11, 2020 No. 216. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on September 14, 2020 No. 21194)..
4. To cultivate a culture of efficient water use among staff, students, and visitors, open lectures and seminars are held under UN SDG initiatives. Modern technologies and practices for rational water use and conservation are integrated into educational programs. The University's Science and Commercialization Department actively implements a policy of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into the list of priority research topics and projects.

The policy of water reuse and secondary utilization of used water allows for resource savings and reduces environmental impact. It includes both recirculation systems (water reused within a single process) and sequential reuse systems (water used across multiple processes), and decreases the pollution levels of natural water bodies receiving wastewater. Reused water can be directed, for example, to toilet flushing.

On campus, continuous work is carried out to promote conscious water use:

1. Infrastructure Department staff promptly and efficiently repair plumbing equipment (faucets, toilets, and water supply engineering networks).
2. Water meters are installed to monitor water consumption.
3. Active work is underway to expand the network of local and international University partners within the framework of water security cooperation.

- **Waste Management**

To promote conscious consumption and reduce the negative impact of waste on the environment, the University has implemented a separate waste collection system – eco-boxes, where waste is sorted into three containers: for paper, plastic, and batteries.

Additionally, the University participates in local and international projects to develop and promote plastic collection and recycling among youth. In addition to implementing the separate waste system, AlmaU supports various initiatives to enhance conscious and responsible consumption and reuse: discounts are offered in cafés to customers bringing their own mugs, reusable cups and utensils are used in the dining hall, free drinking water fountains are available on campus, the AlmaU brand annually updates reusable products – bags, thermoses, and cups. The University reduces the number of personal energy-intensive office equipment – printers, providing shared equipment on each floor, and actively implements not only electronic document management but also electronic archives. All these measures foster a culture of sustainable consumption and environmental responsibility.

- **Education and Research**

AlmaU successfully integrates sustainable development topics into educational programs: Life Design, Idea Generation, Lean and Sustainable Production, Sustainable Development and Urbanization Challenges, Lean Technologies, Sustainable Production, Sustainable Development: Principles and Practice, and others. Similarly, the University actively engages students and staff in volunteer programs and environmental initiatives: they participate continuously in various eco-projects – clean-up events on mountains and other areas, tree planting events in the city, participation in eco-competitions, organization of masterclasses and seminars, as well as eco-project fairs and exhibitions.

In the scientific field, the University prioritizes sustainable development and socio-economic transformation areas: reducing inequality, increasing household income, improving quality of working life, sustainable economic development, sustainable tourism and hospitality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and improving the environmental situation.

Additionally, the University is developing a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and aims to increase the share of “green energy” to a prevailing proportion by 2035.

Annual reports on the implementation of the Green University project are prepared by the Center for Sustainable Development and made publicly available on the University

website as part of the reports: University Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and AlmaU PRME SIP report.

Responsibility

The Rector is responsible for:

- implementing this Policy;
- overseeing the approval and execution of the Action Plan;

The Vice-Rector for Corporate Development is responsible for:

- preparing the annual monitoring and reporting on it.