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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 University Policy of the Non-profit Organization “Almaty Management University” (hereinafter – the University).

Scope of the Document

This Policy applies to all University employees involved in implementing the Green University concept, within their respective competence.

References

This Policy has been developed in accordance with:

-The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development;

-The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

-The Principles of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG);

-The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 27, 2007 No. 319-III “On Education” - Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education" № 319-III — NDLS «Adilet»;

-The Charter of the Non-profit Organization “Almaty Management University. - https://almau.edu.kz/en/charter-and-license/”

- Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (dated January 2, 2021 No. 400-VI) – https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/K2100000400;

- Construction Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (dated January 9, 2026 No. 253-VIII ZRK) – https://prg.kz/document/?doc_id=37270679&pos=9;238;

- eQurylys Unified Digital Construction Platform – https://about.equrylys.kz/.

If the provisions of this Policy conflict with new or amended 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 the planet, improve the quality of life, and enhance prospects for all people around the world. The 17 SDGs were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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 University started this process by improving the environmental performance of the campus and "greening" office operations and continues to expand it.

Policy Objectives

• Develop and maintain green infrastructure on campus and protect biodiversity, including increasing the area of green spaces;

• Reduce energy consumption and gas emissions and increase the share of renewable ("green") energy to more than 50% by 2035;

• Ensure rational water use and reduce water consumption on campus;

• Reduce waste generation and increase the share of separately collected and recycled waste;

• Ensure that construction and renovation work on campus complies with environmental, health and safety requirements;

• Apply sustainable procurement principles when purchasing goods, work and services, including support for local producers and small businesses where possible;

• Integrate sustainable development topics into educational programs, research and student initiatives;

• Foster environmentally responsible behavior and a culture of sustainable consumption among students, staff and visitors.

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 Green Office is based on the core principles of minimizing the University's waste through rational and responsible use of natural resources. Implementing the Green Office principles helps reduce expenses, improve the environmental 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 Policy is aligned with the following AlmaU internal documents and structures:

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 is committed to identifying, monitoring and conserving IUCN Red List species and species included in national conservation lists, including the Red Book of the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose habitats are located in areas affected by the University's operations, and to preventing any negative impact of its activities on these species and their habitats.

AlmaU actively develops ecological infrastructure: the total area covered by greenery is 6,395.75 m², featuring a variety of species such as Ulmus parvifolia (Chinese elm), Betula (birch), Thuja occidentalis (western thuja), Physocarpus (ninebark), Hibiscus, Picea (spruce), Acacia, Pinus (pine), Malus (apple), Juniperus (juniper), Rosa (rose), Syringa (lilac), Acer (maple), Catalpa, and many others.

To minimize water use, AlmaU plans its landscaping in advance, giving special attention to drought-resistant trees and plants such as **Picea pungens, Ulmus laevis, Juniperus horizontalis and Thuja occidentalis.** The University annually increases the number of green spaces on campus.

All green areas and free pedestrian paths on campus are open to students, faculty, and city residents. In spring and summer, the Green Detox area operates where students can relax on the lawns, breathe fresh air, listen to birdsong, and recharge with the energy of nature. During national holidays and special events (e.g., fairs), the University may introduce paid or ticket-only access to the campus grounds in order to raise donations.

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.

- **The building/renovations standards**

According to the Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 2, 2021, No. 400-VI (https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/K2100000400), Chapter 3, Article 13, Clause 4: “Preservation of nature and careful attitude to its resources are the duty and obligation of all individuals and legal entities.” AlmaU is fully committed to this principle.

On July 1, 2026, the Construction Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (No. 253-VIII ZRK dated January 9, 2026) came into effect throughout the Republic of Kazakhstan (https://prg.kz/document/?doc_id=37270679&pos=9;238). This new Code establishes a unified legal framework for all participants in the construction sector—covering everything from the planning of settlements and the development of project documentation to the operation and safety of construction assets throughout their entire lifecycle.

Under the Construction Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, renovation work in existing public buildings—including universities—is subject to stringent requirements regarding the safety of the indoor environment and its protection against adverse factors, as well as the standards set forth in the Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

For renovations carried out in an operating educational institution—where students and staff are present—the primary environmental priority is to minimize risks to human health and the surrounding environment.

1. Digital Oversight (E-Qurylys: https://about.equrylys.kz/)

The new Construction Code has transitioned all construction oversight into a digital environment.

• Unique Facility Identifier: Every modernization project or major renovation is registered in the E-Qurylys system and assigned a unique facility identifier.

• Documentation Transparency: Records of concealed works, materials used, and waste disposal are logged electronically. The responsibilities of the contractors and technical supervisors are now both digitized and tied to specific individuals.

2. Construction Waste Management

Renovations at a university generate specific types of waste (e.g., old plaster, paint, electrical cables, and mercury-containing lamps).

- On-site sorting: It is prohibited to mix construction waste with municipal solid waste (MSW). The contractor is required to organize separate collections (for plastic, metal, concrete, and hazardous waste).

- Hazardous waste passport: For hazardous waste (e.g., old paints and coatings, asbestos-containing materials, mercury-containing lamps), a hazardous waste passport must be prepared. Such waste may only be removed by specialized, licensed companies, with all details recorded in a digital system.

3. Protection of the Indoor Environment and "Green" Materials

The 2026 Construction Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan places a strong emphasis on the quality of the indoor climate in public buildings.

- Restrictions on toxic materials: Paints, varnishes, adhesives, and flooring materials must carry certifications for environmental safety and radiation compliance. Emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) must be zero or kept to a minimum to prevent allergic reactions among students and staff.

- Energy efficiency: When replacing window units, heating systems, or lighting, the Code mandates the use of energy-saving technologies and materials (such as LED systems and thermostatic controls) to reduce the carbon footprint of university buildings over the long term.

4. Noise, Vibration, and Air Quality During Renovations

In an active university environment, environmental management includes protecting people from physical stressors:

- Acoustic Comfort: Dusty and noisy tasks (such as chasing walls or demolition) must be strictly scheduled (typically for evenings, weekends, or academic breaks) to ensure they do not disrupt the educational process.

- Dust Control: Renovation areas must be sealed off using airtight construction barriers or plastic sheeting. The use of industrial vacuum cleaners and localized exhaust systems is mandatory to prevent fine dust from entering the university’s general ventilation system.

Summary Table of Environmental Requirements for Renovation Projects at a University

Environmental Aspect	Requirement under the Construction Code (2026) and the Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Implementation in an Active University
Record-keeping and Monitoring	Data entry into the E-Qurylys system	Electronic documentation of all renovation stages and waste volumes
Air Quality	Protection of the indoor environment	Sealing off renovation areas, using low- or zero-VOC materials, and implementing dust suppression measures
Waste Management	Mandatory waste sorting and disposal	Requirement to enter into contracts for the removal of construction waste; prohibition on disposing of such waste in general municipal solid waste (MSW) bins
Noise Pollution	Compliance with sanitary and epidemiological standards	Scheduling of high-noise work phases outside of class hours

- **Energy Efficiency**

To reduce overall energy consumption and carbon footprint, the University is guided by the following key principles:

1. Energy-efficient lighting. AlmaU has fully transitioned to energy-saving LED lighting in all rooms. Motion sensors are installed in all restrooms.
2. Improving building energy efficiency. Standard air conditioners are being 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, integrated with the official certification authorities of Kazakhstan (electronic digital signature), 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 Onay public transport card, which provides discounted fares for students.

- **Water and Maximum Water Reuse Policy**

AlmaU strives to use water resources responsibly in line with national legislation and international environmental standards, while fostering a culture of water conservation 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 systems are installed for green spaces on campus.
3. Ensuring compliance with national water legislation, including the Water Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (No. 178-VIII dated April 9, 2025) and the Rules for the Provision of Public Services in the Field of Regulating the Use of the Water Fund (Order of the Acting Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 216 dated September 11, 2020; registered with the Ministry of Justice 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 waste 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. Waste 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.

Water consumption is monitored through water meter readings and monthly utility bills.

AlmaU receives its water from the municipal water supply system. Consequently, the responsibility for preventing contaminated water from entering this system—including in the event of accidents or emergencies, whether within the city or on the university campus—lies with the municipal authorities, specifically the Almaty City Department of Energy and Water Supply.

- **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, and AlmaU annually updates its line of branded reusable products (bags, thermoses, and cups). The University reduces the use of personal energy-intensive office equipment, such as printers, by 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. In addition, the University actively engages students and staff in volunteer programs and environmental initiatives: they participate continuously in various eco-projects – clean-up events in the mountains and other areas, tree planting events in the city, participation in eco-competitions, organization of master classes 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 more than 50% by 2035.

Structural units involved in implementing this Policy prepare annual reports on the activities within their competence. This information is reflected in the University Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals report and the AlmaU PRME SIP report, which are published on the University website.

Responsibility

The Rector is responsible for:

- implementing this Policy;

The Vice-Rector for Corporate Development is responsible for:

- coordinating annual monitoring of the implementation of this Policy.

Heads of structural units involved in implementing this Policy are responsible for:

- overseeing the approval and execution of the Action Plan;
- implementing the measures of this Policy within their competence;
- preparing annual reports on the results of their activities under this Policy.