

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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UNIVERSITY"

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The policy of the NJSC “M.Auezov South Kazakhstan University”  
in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change

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## **1. Introduction:**

Sustainable development and combating climate change have become top priorities for educational institutions around the world, and South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov is no exception. In the context of global environmental challenges that require coordinated efforts at all levels of society, the University is actively involved in the development and implementation of strategies aimed at reducing negative environmental impacts and ensuring a sustainable future.

The University's policy in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change is based on the principles of social responsibility, innovation and an integrated approach to solving environmental problems. The most important directions of this policy are the introduction of environmentally friendly technologies, the development of scientific research in the field of sustainable energy and ecology, as well as raising awareness of students, teachers and university staff about the importance of environmental responsibility.

This policy not only reflects the university's commitment to actively participate in the global process of combating climate change, but also contributes to the formation of students' knowledge and skills necessary to work in a sustainable development environment. The implementation of these principles in the educational process and university activities plays a key role in the training of future specialists who will be able to effectively address the challenges of environmental protection and sustainable development at the national and international levels.

## **2. Goal**

The aim of the policy of the South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change is the formation of sustainable practices aimed at minimizing the impact of the university's activities on the environment, helping to solve global environmental problems and train students with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively counter climate change and implement the principles of sustainable development in different spheres of life and professional activity.

This includes:

1. Reducing the carbon footprint of the university through the introduction of environmentally friendly technologies and practices.
2. Development of scientific research and educational programs in the field of sustainable energy, ecology and climate change.
3. Raising awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the importance of sustainable development and environmental protection.
4. Promoting the integration of sustainable approaches into the university's management and educational processes.

This goal is aimed at creating an innovative, environmentally responsible and scientifically sound environment at the university, contributing to the implementation of global and national objectives for climate protection and the conservation of natural resources for future generations.

### **3. Functions and responsibilities**

Functions and responsibilities of South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change:

#### **1. Development and implementation of sustainable development strategies:**

- Development of long-term and short-term programs aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the university's activities.
- Identification of priorities and goals for reducing the carbon footprint, saving energy, water resources and waste disposal.

#### **2. Educational activities:**

- Integrating the principles of sustainable development and ecology into educational programs at all levels of education.
- Organizing courses, trainings, lectures, and seminars for students, faculty, and staff on climate change and sustainable practices.
- Creation of interdisciplinary educational programs aimed at training specialists in the field of environmental sciences, sustainable energy and natural resource management.

#### **3. Scientific and research activities:**

- Promote scientific research in the field of climate change, sustainable technologies and environmental protection.
- Development of innovative projects aimed at solving environmental problems and implementing effective solutions in the field of sustainable development.
- Collaboration with public and private organizations, scientific institutions and international partners to share knowledge and develop new solutions for climate sustainability.

#### **4. Environmental responsibility in university management:**

- Implementation of sustainable practices in the daily activities of the university, such as energy conservation, waste recycling, and rational use of resources.
- The introduction of "green" technologies into the university's infrastructure, such as the use of renewable energy sources, energy-saving systems and environmentally friendly materials.
- Monitoring compliance with environmental standards and norms in the university's activities.

#### **5. Increase community awareness and engagement:**

- Organizing environmental actions, events, and campaigns for students, faculty, and staff to raise their awareness of climate change and sustainable development.
  - Formation and support of initiatives and student organizations involved in environmental activism and promotion of sustainable practices.
  - Creation and support of platforms for the exchange of experience and best practices in the field of sustainable development among universities and educational institutions.
- 6. Cooperation with external partners:**
- Establishing partnerships with government agencies, international organizations, NGOs and the business sector to implement joint projects in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change.
  - Participation in international and national initiative projects and programs aimed at increasing resilience in the face of climate change.
- 7. Performance monitoring and evaluation:**
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of ongoing programs and initiatives aimed at sustainable development.
  - Monitoring the university's environmental indicators, such as carbon footprint, energy consumption, water use, and waste volume, in order to optimize them.
- 8. Participation in international environmental initiatives:**
- Involving the university in international environmental agreements and initiatives, such as the Paris Climate Agreement, in order to support global efforts to reduce climate change.
  - Application of international standards of sustainable development in the educational process and university infrastructure.

These functions and responsibilities will ensure the integration of the principles of sustainable development into various aspects of the university's life, contributing to its active participation in solving global environmental problems and training specialists ready for the challenges of climate change.

#### **4. Environmental responsibility**

The environmental responsibility of South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change lies in its commitment to the principles of environmental sustainability and the introduction of practices aimed at minimizing the negative impact on the environment. The University recognizes its role in solving global environmental problems and strives to act in accordance with high environmental standards. The most important aspects of environmental responsibility are:

**1. Rational use of natural resources:**

- The University is committed to making efficient use of natural resources such as energy, water, and raw materials, minimizing their consumption and reducing the environmental footprint.
- Implementation of energy-saving technologies and systems aimed at reducing energy consumption and optimizing the use of water resources.

**2. Waste management and recycling:**

- The university's strategy includes active work on waste sorting and recycling, reducing waste volumes and switching to the principles of "zero waste".
- Development of an environmentally sound recycling and reuse system for materials, as well as reducing the use of single-use plastic products at the university.

**3. Use of renewable energy sources:**

- The introduction of "green" technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines and other renewable energy sources to meet the needs of the university.
- Assessment of opportunities to switch to environmentally friendly energy sources, reducing dependence on fossil resources.

**4. Education and fostering of ecological culture:**

- The University actively promotes awareness among students and staff of the importance of a sustainable approach to the environment through educational programs, courses and trainings on climate change and ecology.
- The introduction of environmentally responsible behavior into the daily practice of students, teachers and staff, which includes compliance with energy conservation standards, waste sorting, reasonable consumption of resources and responsible attitude to nature.

**5. Innovation and environmental research:**

- The University supports and develops scientific research aimed at solving the problems of climate change and environmental sustainability.
- Stimulating the development and implementation of innovative technologies and sustainable solutions that can be used in the fight against global environmental challenges.

**6. Social responsibility and participation in public initiatives:**

- The University actively participates in environmental actions, events and campaigns at the local and national levels, supports and initiates environmental projects aimed at raising awareness of climate change issues.
- Cooperation with environmental organizations, government agencies and the private sector to work together towards sustainable development.

**7. Environmental impact assessment and monitoring:**

- An important part of environmental responsibility is the continuous monitoring and assessment of the environmental impact of university activities.
- Regular review of the effectiveness of environmental initiatives and programs, implementation of methods for measuring the carbon footprint and other sustainability indicators.

#### **8. Environmentally friendly infrastructure:**

- When designing and constructing new university facilities, the principles of sustainable construction, the use of environmentally friendly materials and technologies are taken into account.
- Creation of green areas, gardens and parks on the university grounds to maintain biodiversity and improve the quality of the environment.

Thus, the environmental responsibility of South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov is based on an integrated approach to sustainable development aimed at preserving nature, reducing environmental impacts and educating future specialists who will be able to effectively address environmental protection and climate change issues.

### **5. Public activities and partnerships**

The public activities and partnership of South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change play a key role in the implementation of environmental initiatives and the creation of a sustainable social environment. The University actively participates in environmental and socially responsible projects, which contributes not only to the development of the institute, but also to the formation of an ecological culture among students, teachers and the general public.

#### **1. Environmental education and participation in social initiatives**

The University actively participates in social actions and campaigns aimed at raising awareness of climate change and sustainable development issues. Within the framework of the university's public activities:

- Organizes lectures, seminars, and round tables on climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable practices.
- Conducts environmental actions, such as planting trees, cleaning reservoirs, and garbage collection, which involve students, teachers, and the local community in practical activities.
- Participates in international and national environmental days, such as Earth Day or Environmental Protection Day, drawing attention to global environmental issues.

#### **2. Partnership with public and private organizations**

The University is actively developing partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, private companies and international organizations to implement joint projects in the field of sustainable development and climate change.:

- Cooperation with environmental NGOs and government agencies allows participation in major projects aimed at protecting nature and combating the effects of climate change.

- The University works closely with environmental and scientific centers, which facilitates the exchange of experience, as well as the introduction of innovative solutions in the field of sustainable technologies.

- Partnerships with local and international companies within the framework of corporate social responsibility help promote environmentally friendly technologies and practices at the business sector level.

### **3. Involving students in environmental initiatives**

The University actively engages students in environmental activities, creating platforms for social responsibility.:

- Student environmental clubs and organizations are actively involved in the development and implementation of sustainable projects, such as the organization of “green” events, environmental festivals and competitions.

- Volunteering programs in the field of nature conservation give students the opportunity to directly participate in public and environmental initiatives, increasing their level of responsibility and environmental awareness.

### **4. Cooperation with international partners**

South Kazakhstan University is actively developing international cooperation in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change:

- The University participates in international projects and programs such as those of the United Nations, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Bank and other global organizations aimed at introducing sustainable technologies and practices.

- Partnership with foreign universities allows for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of environmental sustainability and climate change, as well as jointly develop scientific research and innovations aimed at solving environmental problems.

- Participation in international environmental conferences and forums helps the university to be at the center of global trends in sustainable development and actively participate in global initiatives to combat climate change.

### **5. Role in the local community**

As an important educational and scientific structure, the university assumes responsibility for the ecological state of the region:

- Organizing and supporting initiatives at the regional level, such as local environmental projects for landscaping, water conservation, and air quality improvement.

- Collaborate with local authorities and organizations to develop and implement sustainable practices within the framework of urban planning and sustainable development of the region.

### **6. Support for innovative startups and social entrepreneurs**

The University actively supports environmental startups and sustainable business initiatives:



- The University provides a platform for startups working in the field of ecology and sustainable development, supports them through consultations, educational programs and the creation of conditions for the implementation of innovative solutions.

- Partnership with social entrepreneurs helps to integrate sustainable business models and social innovations into the academic and practical activities of the university.

## **7. Support for environmental responsibility at the civil society level**

The University promotes the development of civic engagement in the field of ecology:

- The University encourages students and staff to be active participants in civic initiatives aimed at environmental protection and sustainable development.

- Conducting training programs and courses aimed at developing active civic participation in issues of sustainability and environmental protection.

Within the framework of its public activities and partnership, South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov strives to be not only an educational and scientific center, but also an active participant in processes aimed at solving global environmental challenges and creating a sustainable future.

## **6. Monitoring and reporting**

Monitoring and reporting are important components of the University's policy in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change. They ensure transparency, effective management and continuous improvement of environmental practices, contributing to the achievement of established goals in the field of sustainability and environmental protection. South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov adheres to the principles of systematic monitoring and regular reporting to assess the results of its environmental activities.

### **1. Environmental impact monitoring**

Monitoring includes systematic observation and collection of data on the environmental impact of university activities. The main areas of monitoring include:

- **Energy consumption:** Assessment of the level of energy consumption (electricity, gas, heat) on the university grounds. Tracking consumption dynamics and identifying areas for improving energy efficiency and switching to renewable energy sources.
- **Water use:** Monitoring the volume of water consumed, including water supply, sanitation and irrigation systems, in order to optimize water consumption and minimize losses.
- **Waste generation:** Monitoring the volume and types of waste produced by the university, as well as the effectiveness of its processing and disposal. Analysis of waste reduction methods and implementation of "zero waste" principles.
- **Carbon footprint:** Assessment of carbon emissions related to university activities, including transportation, energy consumption, and other sources of

emissions. Developing measures to reduce the carbon footprint and transition to more environmentally friendly technologies.

## 2. Monitoring and data collection tools

Various tools and methods are used to effectively monitor the university:

- **Digital systems and platforms for resource accounting:** Implementation of systems for accounting for energy consumption, water supply and waste, which allows detailed accounting and data analysis for decision-making to improve environmental sustainability.
- **Environmental audits:** Conducting regular environmental audits to identify weaknesses in the university's environmental policy and develop recommendations for improving environmental performance.
- **Experience and standards of international organizations:** In the monitoring process, the university uses the best international practices and standards, such as ISO 14001 (environmental management), to assess environmental performance.

## 3. Accountability and transparency

South Kazakhstan University named after M. Auezov adheres to the principles of open and transparent reporting on environmental issues:

- **Annual Environmental Reports:** The University publishes annual reports that present monitoring results on key environmental indicators such as energy consumption, water use, waste and carbon footprint. The reports also contain information on the successes achieved and initiatives implemented in the field of sustainable development.
- **Stakeholder reports:** The University prepares reports for students, faculty, staff, and external partners, including government organizations and environmental NGOs. These reports are aimed at raising awareness about the university's activities and its contribution to sustainable development.
- **Publications in scientific and environmental publications:** The University also publishes the results of its research and innovative projects in the field of sustainable energy and ecology, which allows sharing experiences and best practices with a wide audience.

## 4. Evaluating effectiveness and adjusting strategies

The results of monitoring and reporting are used to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs and adjust the university's sustainable development strategy:

- **Results analysis and program adjustments:** Regular data analysis allows the university to identify problems in a timely manner and take measures to improve the environmental situation. If any areas of the strategy do not achieve their goals, new measures and initiatives are being developed to improve efficiency.
- **Continuous improvement:** Based on reporting and monitoring, new plans and tasks for the future are being developed, which allows the university to continuously improve its efforts in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change.

## 5. External inspection and audit

In addition to internal monitoring and reporting, the university may involve external auditors and environmental experts to independently evaluate its activities.:

- **Eco-audit:** Periodic external environmental audit to verify the compliance of the university's environmental policy with international standards.
- **External environmental certificates:** Obtaining and maintaining certificates such as ISO 14001 or EMAS, which confirm the university's commitment to international standards in the field of environmental management.

## 6. Feedback and community engagement

The university's reporting also includes collecting feedback from students, faculty, and staff:

- **Questionnaires and surveys:** Periodic surveys are conducted among students and staff to assess satisfaction with the university's environmental policy and identify areas for improvement.
- **Discussions and seminars:** Holding meetings and seminars with students and staff to discuss environmental policy and possible changes in future strategies.

## 7. Policy objectives

SKU named after M. Auezov sets itself several key goals in the field of sustainable development and combating climate change.

1. **Reducing the environmental impact of the university** To ensure the reduction of the carbon footprint, energy and water consumption, as well as the reduction of waste produced by the university, through the introduction of environmentally sustainable technologies and practices in the daily activities of the educational institution.
2. **Integration of the principles of sustainable development into the educational process** Include the principles of sustainable development, environmental protection and combating climate change in curricula and courses in order to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to work in the face of global environmental challenges.
3. **Development of scientific research in the field of ecology and sustainable technologies** To stimulate and support scientific research aimed at solving environmental problems, developing innovative solutions in the field of sustainable energy, efficient use of natural resources and minimizing environmental impacts.
4. **Ensuring environmental awareness and responsibility among students and staff** To raise awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the importance of environmental responsibility, sustainable consumption, and environmental protection through educational initiatives, campaigns, and participation in environmental projects.

5. **Sustainable management of university resources and infrastructure** Ensure the rational use of the university's resources (energy, water, materials) and the introduction of "green" technologies into the infrastructure, including the use of renewable energy sources, energy-saving systems and environmentally friendly materials.
6. **Strengthening partnership and cooperation in the field of sustainable development** To develop cooperation with government agencies, the private sector, scientific and environmental organizations to jointly implement projects aimed at combating climate change and sustainable development at the local, national and international levels.
7. **Support for sustainable development initiatives at the regional level** Participate in environmental and social initiatives at the regional level, supporting projects aimed at preserving natural resources and increasing the resilience of local communities to the effects of climate change.
8. **Monitoring and evaluation of the University's environmental activities** Develop a monitoring and reporting system to assess the effectiveness of the university's sustainability policy, as well as adjust actions depending on the data obtained and changes in the environmental situation.
9. **Creation of a climate-neutral campus** Strive to achieve the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality of the university through optimizing the use of resources and the introduction of sustainable technologies.

These goals are aimed at integrating sustainable development and environmental protection into the strategic management of the university, increasing responsibility among students and staff, as well as contributing to solving global environmental problems.