

Actions to Promote More Sustainable Commuting

Below are 7 things that Khazar University undertakes to promote more sustainable commuting

1. Recycle

Recycling is one the best things we can do to promote sustainability. Recycling and buying products made with recycled materials has many benefits. By cleaning up our University and recycling our old University trash, we instantly get a cleaner University and some extra cash. Buying products with recycled materials completes the loop. Recycling reduces pressure on raw materials, reduces mining, and the fuel and other costs associated with extracting, transporting and processing minerals.

2. Make informed choices

Khazar University community can make a shift in their purchasing practices by choosing sustainable goods and services. Gather information and make an informed purchase. Before you buy something, make sure you really need it.

3. Grow your own garden

Khazar University staff reduce their carbon footprint and reduce negative environmental impacts by growing much more flowers in the University open spaces.

4. Minimize waste

The first step to minimizing waste is to buy only the products that you need. Avoid excessive packaging and recycle everything that you can

5. Watch your utility bills

Conserving energy and minimizing waste help Khazar University community in reducing their utility bills as well as promoting sustainability.

6. Purchase energy efficient appliances

We are eager to replace all our university appliances with energy efficient ones. We will pay for themselves in the long run. Energy efficient appliances are better insulated and save energy, such as new water heaters, thermostats, heat pumps, air conditioning, etc.

7. Plant more trees and flowers

We plant more trees and flowers in our recent and new campuses.

Environmental Sustainability

One of the main University priorities is environmental sustainability We are continually looking for ways to improve, and welcome questions and suggestions from students and staff across the university.

Some positive environmental things we have been doing :

- Khazar University leadership, staff and students took part in a campaign of planting 650,000 trees. The trees were planted at the territory, designated for the new campus of Khazar University in Buzovna campus.
- Online discussion Khazar University staff to inform wider audience of “Climate Impacts on Water Resources” organized by Initiative of the Public Council under the Azerbaijani Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- 3rd symposium on World One Health Day and 2nd International Conference on “One Health: Problems and Solutions” were held at Khazar University in 2019.

- A scientific-practical seminar on “Impact of toxic pollutants on the environment”.
- Khazar Air Quality Lab, established in June 2019, has monitored air quality in Baku and some suburban settlements.
- Information support research activities on “Field work on Air Quality in Baku” held by Khazar Quality Air Laboratory. <http://dspace.khazar.org/handle/20.500.12323/4074>
- Our Collection Development Policy prioritises purchase of electronic resources over paper where available. <http://khazar.org/en/item/1338>
- Renewable energy collection, including solar energy resources, within Khazar Institutional Repository, promotes wider university, library, local, and national/international environmental issues, news, and initiatives to all library staff. 100 ebooks, research papers and reports are available at <http://dspace.khazar.org/handle/20.500.12323/4257>
- Webinar for student’s parents “Climate changed” was held in May 2020. Available at <http://dspace.khazar.org/handle/20.500.12323/4412>
- Regularly sharing newsletters of the International Energy subscribed by LIC <http://dspace.khazar.org/handle/20.500.12323/4414>
- Requested books are donated to charity or recycled
- Opening hours adjusted to match use, saving power during daytime Staff switch off electrical devices when leaving where possible/appropriate.
- Offer unwanted furniture for reuse elsewhere.
- Promote environmental awareness via our library marketing items e.g. recycled paper, recycled cardboard boxes, reusable bags.
- Reuse packaging materials where possible and appropriate.
- Request non-disposable cups, plates, etc. for catered events.

We are considering various ideas to further promote sustainability or reduce our impact - increasing awareness of the option to book online/telephone appointments with librarians, more plants within the library, displays highlighting books on environmental issues, etc.

Future goals

- To meet the needs of future environmentally sustainable library building in Buzovna campus.
- To promote and development environmentally sustainable information resources and programming.
- To develop conservation of Khazar University information resources and energy.
- To optimize newspapers' reading, and guide green social trends of waste reuse.
- To form collaboration with the university energy team and library staff a “Green Team” that start a sustainability festival “Green Library.”
- The initial remit will be to monitor energy usage and identify areas for improvement. This led to a number of changes, i.e.:

- ✓ Re-balanced air ventilation and heating systems to improve the office and reading room environmental conditions.
- ✓ Turned off lights centrally in low occupancy areas during the summer months.
- A “binless” office system will be introduced: All small bins will be removed from all offices and public spaces within the Library. Some waste recycling stations will be established. Everybody will take their waste from their desks upon leaving the Library, and dispose of it in at the waste stations.
- A major element of the campaign will be communications, with large posters, pull-ups and banners across the library and in key locations, everyone will be exposed to the message that the library is going “green”.
- To Spread the concept of environmental protection in library services and readers 'activities: various painting exhibitions will guide readers to care for nature.
- To encourage Library staff to actively present their activities to an international audience.
- To Incorporate sustainability into librarianship.

Thus, this initiative offered practical solutions to pervasive waste problems and generating a major impact that can be scaled and shared by libraries around Azerbaijan. Library can help an excellent road map for other organizations to follow. An additional feature of the project is its strong and consistent communications strategy that keeps all stakeholders updated and involved.