



NAKHCHIVAN STATE UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION POLICY

THE POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DECISION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF NAKHCIVAN STATE UNIVERSITY
AT THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 (PROTOCOL
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Transportation Policy

1. Introduction

Nakhchivan State University (NSU) is committed to advancing sustainability and environmental stewardship across all aspects of its operations. Transportation represents one of the key areas where the university can significantly reduce its environmental impact, enhance the health and well-being of its community, and contribute to achieving national and global climate goals.

The NSU Transportation Policy has been developed in alignment with the university's broader Climate Action Policy and Sustainability Strategy. It outlines the principles, strategies, and implementation mechanisms guiding all transportation-related activities within the university. This policy supports the reduction of carbon emissions, improvement of air quality, and promotion of sustainable mobility options for students, faculty, and staff.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The main purpose of this policy is to ensure that all transportation activities within and around the NSU campus are managed responsibly and sustainably. The objectives of the policy are to:

- Minimize carbon emissions from university-related transportation activities.
- Promote low-impact, zero-emission, and non-motorized transportation options.
- Ensure safe, efficient, and inclusive mobility for all members of the university community.
- Integrate transportation planning into NSU's sustainability framework.
- Support the national and international goals for climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
- Cultivate awareness among students and staff regarding the environmental impact of transportation choices.

3. Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to:



- All university-owned vehicles and transport operations;
- Transportation activities conducted by students, academic staff, and administrative employees;
- Commuting and access to the university campus;
- Infrastructure related to transport and mobility, including parking zones, bicycle stations, and pedestrian areas.
- The policy is relevant to both on-campus and off-campus mobility associated with university activities.

4. Policy Statements and Strategies

4.1. Vehicle Access Restriction

NSU enforces a vehicle-restricted campus policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, traffic congestion, and noise pollution. The main campus is designed as a pedestrian zone, where private vehicle access is generally prohibited. Only authorized personnel, service vehicles, and emergency transportation are permitted entry.

Parking facilities are located outside the campus perimeter, promoting a shift toward walking and cycling within the campus.

4.2. Promotion of Non-Motorized and Zero-Emission Transport

Given the compact and accessible nature of the NSU campus, walking and cycling are encouraged as the main modes of internal movement. The university provides bicycle racks and secure parking zones at multiple points around the campus to facilitate bicycle use.

Currently, there are 91 bicycles actively used by students and staff, contributing to reduced emissions and promoting healthier lifestyles. The university plans to expand its zero-emission infrastructure by introducing electric bicycles and establishing dedicated charging areas in the future.

4.3. University-Owned Vehicles and Fleet Management

NSU maintains a small fleet of university-owned vehicles, currently consisting of five (5)



cars used for official administrative and operational purposes only. All vehicles are managed under strict scheduling and monitoring systems to ensure efficient use of fuel and to minimize unnecessary trips.

The university is committed to gradually replacing its internal combustion engine vehicles with low-emission or electric alternatives as part of its future sustainability plan.

4.4. Shuttle and Public Transport Access

At present, there is no internal shuttle service operating within the NSU campus, as the university buildings are located within short and walkable distances. However, the campus is easily accessible by public transportation, with local buses and taxis operating regularly around the university perimeter.

Students and staff are encouraged to use public transportation or carpooling options to commute to the university, thereby reducing individual carbon footprints.

4.5. Infrastructure and Accessibility

The university ensures that transportation infrastructure supports sustainable mobility. The campus includes well-maintained pedestrian pathways, safe bicycle lanes, and designated parking areas outside the main campus gates. These measures help maintain a calm, safe, and environmentally friendly learning environment.

4.6. Sustainable Long-Distance and Air Travel

Nakhchivan State University recognizes that air and long-distance travel can contribute to carbon emissions. Therefore, the university encourages minimizing non-essential travel and prioritizing virtual meetings, conferences, and collaborations whenever possible. For essential academic or administrative trips, staff and students are encouraged to choose direct and fuel-efficient routes. In the future, NSU aims to explore carbon offset initiatives to further reduce the environmental impact of institutional travel.



5. Environmental and Social Benefits

By implementing this policy, NSU contributes to a range of environmental and social benefits, including:

- Reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality.
- Lower noise levels and safer pedestrian spaces.
- Enhanced physical health through increased walking and cycling.
- Increased environmental awareness among students and employees.
- Reduced dependency on fossil fuels and encouragement of clean energy transitions.

6. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This Transportation Policy supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being: Encouraging walking and cycling supports physical health and mental well-being.
- SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy: Promoting low-emission transportation contributes to cleaner energy use.
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Creating a campus environment based on sustainable mobility.
- SDG 13 – Climate Action: Directly reducing the university's carbon footprint through transport-related emission control.

7. Implementation and Monitoring

The Sustainability Office and the Campus Management Department are responsible for implementing and monitoring the Transportation Policy. Data on vehicle use, ZEVs, and commuting patterns will be collected annually to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.

Annual reviews will align the policy with evolving sustainability goals and technological advancements, such as the introduction of electric charging infrastructure or partnerships with local transport providers.



8. Conclusion

Through this Transportation Policy, Nakhchivan State University reaffirms its dedication to environmental sustainability, community health, and responsible resource management. By prioritizing walking, cycling, and limited vehicle use, the university not only reduces its ecological footprint but also serves as a model for sustainable campus mobility in Azerbaijan.

This commitment reflects NSU's proactive role in supporting national environmental objectives and the global agenda for climate action, sustainability, and social well-being.