

Almaty, 2020

**SUSTAINABLE
NARXOZ - 2030**

INTRODUCTION

For the first time in human history, world leaders have set the road map for future development of the planet under the umbrella of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015-2030). These goals are an unprecedented commitment by world leaders from around the globe to put sustainability as the overarching theme for human development encompassing the triple bottom line: economy, society and the environment. The new agenda is people-centered, universal, transformative and integrated. They are also firmly grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties. It calls for action by all countries for all people over the next 15 years in five areas of critical importance: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Transformational changes are needed in all sectors including higher education and business. Therefore, they both play a vital role in helping achieve these goals.

Narxoz University began reforms in 2002 to transform the University to reflect the 'new reality that is manifested in the modern world through the rapid change of society, the rapid development of information technology, changing needs for human resources. According to the mission of the University the 'the world can no longer be the same; the point of no return has been passed by mankind. Openness, transparency, globalization identified the main trends in the changing landscape of higher education. Consequently, the education system should be focused on what makes a person a person, and not on the race for excellence with artificial intelligence'.

Our University's strategic position, is directly linked to the main principles of sustainability, and therefore, the SDGs. As an educational institution, it is our role to educate the future generation and to layout a path for personal and professional development that provides them with the knowledge, skills and values needed to implement this global agenda for the future of sustainable and prosperous human development.

This strategy is meant as a vision of what we would like our University to be look like by 2030. The roadmap we set forth for our University's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals will inevitably address all of them due to the systems thinking approach imbedded into the Goals. We will concentrate however, in four core areas of work:

1. Campus culture (core values, student engagement, employee engagement, community engagement, regional and global outreach/partnerships)

2. Education/research/curricula/transdisciplinary work on sustainability

3. Campus operations (climate change, accessibility, waste, water, transport, green procurement, food)

4. Sustainable office

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



KEY PRINCIPLES AND VALUES:

Narxoz University commits to teach through action by conducting our work, our University and ourselves in line with the principle of sustainability. This will be done by implementing the following principles that will guide our work.

COLLABORATION:

Sustainability must be done through partnerships. We value working with diverse sets of stakeholders to achieve our mission.

EQUALITY:

We believe that sustainable human development is only possible when all people have equal opportunities for the realization of their potential. Our aim is to create these opportunities at Narxoz to advance equality on campus and beyond.

INTEGRITY:

We are committed the underlying principle of sustainability that puts society and the environment at the heart of economic development. Everyday our work strives towards implementing that principle.

ETHICS:

We are committed to the highest standards in all that we do and align all our work in accordance with international and national laws. We encourage a 'speak up' culture, empowering transparency for good conduct.

RESPECT:

Our University pursues knowledge. We believe that sustainability must come from new, old and alternative ways of viewing the world. Inquiry-based learning is the foundation for discovery. As a result, we respect and learn from traditional practices and alternative viewpoints as part of the sustainability solutions.

QUALITY:

The activities of our University are implemented with strict quality standards. These standards are followed throughout all our operations including delivery of our research, academic programs, sustainability services, and accountability.

UNIVERSALITY:

We believe in the interconnectedness of the people and the planet. Therefore, solutions must come from the bottom up, from the top down, and horizontally. Our University strives to be part of sustainability solutions by connecting Narxoz University to the broader world and connecting the broader world to us.

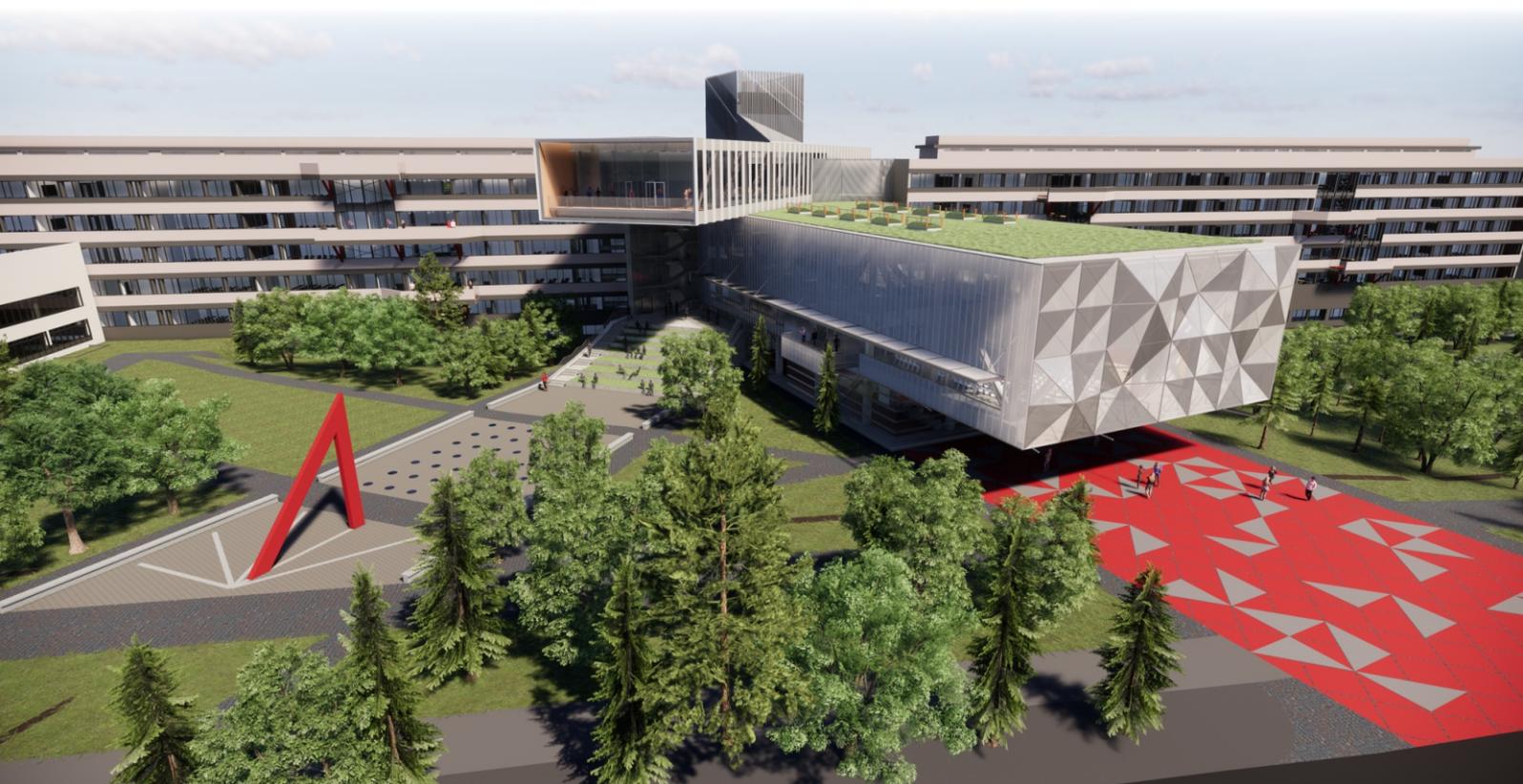
EDUCATION:

Education is the fundamental tool used for transformational change. Our University values education as the bedrock of sustainable solutions. Our University places education at the cornerstone of all our work.

OVERALL AIM: CREATING A CULTURE AND PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

OBJECTIVES:

- Improving campus sustainability performance
- Engaging the broader community around sustainability challenges and solutions through collaborative partnerships and actions
- Creating learning opportunities for sustainability
- Conduct high quality research on sustainability reflect the needs of Kazakhstan and beyond
- Use research to inform sustainability solutions
- Being part of the solution for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Sharing information on good sustainability practices on a local and international level
- Leading by setting examples of sustainability that other Universities in the region and globally can apply.



CAMPUS CULTURE

CORE VALUES, STUDENT/EMPLOYEE/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS

Our culture is also defined by our actions. As a result, we seek to set an example by how to behave and how to operate both within and outside of the University. Our campus is not only a physical space, but also a place of learning, community, and experience exchange. Therefore, the campus should play a significant role in experimentation and learning. Moreover, as a higher education institution Narxoz University also plays a broader role in the larger community in Almaty and Kazakhstan. In recognition of the important role our University plays for students, faculty, staff and the general public, we seek to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by building a campus culture that reflects the needs of this global mandate for human development.





THE UNIVERSITY AIMS:

- 1.** To establish a living laboratory on campus where students and faculty are engaged in research and educational activities that facilitate service learning through sustainability projects and initiatives.
- 2.** To organize the effective dissemination of information and sharing of knowledge on sustainability as a means of promoting good practice and raising awareness within the institute, campus, amongst partners and the wider community.
- 3.** To deliver support to all partners including local, national, and regional governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and academia. As a business school we will also seek to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) which are a central part of our local and national economies. We will support the communities with whom we engage through the creation of social enterprises by our students, staff, alumni and local communities. We will also assist students seeking to obtain employment in the public and not-for-profit sector by fostering skills that contribute to prosperity and sustainability in Kazakhstan and beyond.
- 4.** To be committed to the principles of environmental responsibility and sustainability and invest in appropriate facilities and technologies so that we can minimize energy consumption, reduce our carbon footprint and can account for such to our stakeholders.
- 5.** Prioritize green procurement of University supplies and services from contractors and services providers.
- 6.** To create an inclusive campus culture that promotes equality and respect for diversity on campus and beyond. We will create an environment enabling all individuals on our campus to use the opportunities Narxoz has to offer, and to encourage meaningful reflection of diversity among our students and staff in university life and decision-making roles.
- 7.** We also seek to evaluate our performance by developing a set of sustainability indicators that will be measured and evaluated at the end of each year.
- 8.** To encourage good health and well-being of our students and staff. We strive to do this both on and off campus through educational programs, sporting events and other activities.
- 9.** To continue, and when feasible, enhance ongoing professional and academic ethics awareness and related policies.
- 10.** We will report on our performance by publishing a yearly report on our progress and participating in global sustainability reporting initiatives.

EDUCATION, CURRICULA, TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHODS

As a higher education institution, it is our role to ensure students obtain the necessary knowledge, skills and values that prepare them to contribute to the well-being of themselves, their families, communities and society. The skills needed to make this contribution are becoming increasingly transdisciplinary crossing traditional boundaries of disciplines and fields. Therefore, Narxoz University seeks to be at the forefront of these changes by:

- 1.** Launching a comprehensive and far-reaching strategy and subsequent action plan for sustainability designed to advance the University, safeguard the environment, and promote human prosperity.
- 2.** Reviewing the content and delivery of existing modules and courses University-wide with the intention of introducing sustainability content, including - but not limited to - integrating sustainability learning outcomes across curricula, developing topics linked to environmental sustainability with specialist pathways and introducing other curricula content in line with the principles of sustainable development.
- 3.** Preparing students for global careers through the introduction of knowledge relevant to global issues linked with sustainable development and underpinned by high quality education through internal and external partnerships.
- 4.** Delivering high quality, applied research programs and projects linked with the SDGs through the Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute, other research units, supporting departments, and administration.
- 5.** Establishing a platform for organizing meetings of experts where initiatives of the SKRI and other units related to the SDGs can be promoted.
- 6.** The University recognizes the historical role the ecology department has played in contributing to sustainability related programs and activities within the University. Therefore, the University will support the development of cross-disciplinary educational programs and activities linked with sustainable development while providing a special emphasis to the ecology department.



CAMPUS OPERATIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER, WASTE, FOOD, AND ACCESSIBILITY

We aim to have a positive impact on the surrounding environment and our community of students, faculty, and staff by developing and operating Narxoz Universities campuses to conserve resources, reduce pollution, and enhance community well-being. This is all the more relevant, as while this Strategy is being designed, the campus is undergoing significant reconstruction with the aim of making it one of the most energy efficient and sustainable university campuses in Central Asia. Our sustainability commitment to campus operations emphasizes the following themes:

CLIMATE CHANGE:

1. We will use the campus facilities as a living laboratory for experimentation and learning by engaging the students in sustainability research and other activities within the campus.
2. We will ensure that our campus facilities and operations implement energy saving designs and use including hard and soft infrastructure through renovations and innovative designs. Some examples are the foreseen 'green roof' on the main campus and access to drinking water stations.
3. To build a consciousness regarding climate change at Narxoz university through lecture series, supporting green days, among other activities.

FOOD:

1. We seek to support healthy lifestyles by encouraging the use of nutritious, local sourced, and environmentally friendly food and packaging. This will be done by identifying and working with the best food suppliers to ensure this is accomplished.
2. We will also promote sustainable lifestyles through promotional and outreach activities such as posters, manuals, among others.
3. We will promote recycling culture through special discounts on using reusable containers and bottles, providing alternatives to plastic packaging, and supplying the infrastructure needed for recycling.

WASTE:

1. To quantify and categorize waste according with the categories admitted by city waste management strategy in order to evaluate and reduce consumption.
2. To prevent the waste through education and outreach activities promoting the five R principles; Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
3. Ensure that the campus redevelopment plan reduces waste by redesigning and repurposing pre-existing infrastructure. Along with choosing eco-friendly and energy saving materials used for reconstruction.

ACCESSIBILITY

1. To meet international standards regarding accessibility of physical environment to provide access to an educational institution for all.
2. To promote the understanding and culture of accessibility through awareness-raising and guidelines on accessibility across campus and in the broader context.

SUSTAINABLE OFFICE

Day to day office operations make a significant impact in regards to energy use and waste. Issues like transport to and from the office, energy and paper use, and office waste can be addressed through simple measures that not only reduce our environmental impact, but increase staff solidarity and pride in being part of a University wide initiative. Our Strategy emphasizes seven simple areas where we will make an impact:

- 1.** We seek to ensure office management takes a leading role in office sustainability. This will be done through the facilitation of workshops and meetings for faculty and administrative staff on sustainability initiatives and operations.
- 2.** Paper is a major source of environmental impact we seek to go paperless wherever possible and try to implement this whenever possible. When this is not an option we will try to reduce paper and impact through activities such as a double-sided printing and using recycled paper.
- 3.** Recycling of electronic waste, paper, and plastic will also be supported through outreach activities and operational support.
- 4.** Electricity consumption will also be reduced through initiatives that seek to encourage staff to take measures to reduce electricity use in office operations through measures such as switching off the lights and computers at the end of the work day, among others.
- 5.** Encourage and procure products that are not ecologically harmful whenever possible.
- 6.** Travel to and from the office is also a major source of environmental impact. The University will explore transport to and from the campus determining what options are available to encourage commuting and car sharing programs.



Sustainability also needs a coordinating unit to motivate and coordinate activities connected to the Universities core areas of work on sustainability and subsequently, the SDGs. The Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute will be the coordinating unit. It will work in collaboration with the Sustainability Committee to oversee the implementation of this Strategy and the coordination of it among students, faculty, staff, and the general public.

