

## **SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION POLICY**

### **Introduction**

“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage recognizes the importance of sustainability and climate action in creating a better future for our society and the environment. As an educational institution, we have a responsibility to promote sustainable practices and equip our students with the knowledge and skills needed to address global challenges. This policy outlines university's commitment to sustainability and climate action, providing a framework for integrating sustainable practices into our operations, curriculum, and campus culture.

### **1. Policy Purpose and Scope**

This Sustainability and Climate Action Policy defines the environmental vision, long-term institutional commitments and operational standards of the “Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage. The Policy serves as a guiding framework for integrating sustainability principles into all academic, administrative, infrastructural, research and community engagement activities of the University. It reflects the national priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the areas of green development, renewable energy expansion, climate resilience and efficient use of natural resources. The Policy applies to all faculties, departments, centres, administrative divisions, academic staff, students, contractors and partner organizations operating within the University’s jurisdiction. Every decision taken by the University must align with this Policy to ensure that sustainability becomes a central component of institutional governance and operational culture.

### **2. Guiding Principles**

“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage bases its environmental and climate-related efforts on a set of internationally recognized sustainability principles. Academic and administrative processes are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and particularly emphasize commitments to quality education, clean energy, climate action, sustainable cities and

responsible consumption. The institution recognizes its responsibility to act decisively in the face of climate change and therefore prioritizes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the adoption of cleaner energy systems and the promotion of resource-efficient technologies. All decisions related to sustainability are carried out using evidence-based approaches that rely on transparent data collection, analytical research and consistent institutional monitoring. Openness and accountability are essential components of these principles, and the University ensures that its environmental progress and challenges are communicated publicly and regularly. Through these guiding principles, the University aims to build a campus environment where sustainability is a shared responsibility embraced by all members of the academic community.

### **3. Institutional Commitments and Strategic Objectives**

“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage recognizes its role in contributing to national and global climate goals and therefore undertakes long-term commitments that address climate action, energy efficiency, natural resource preservation and sustainable campus development. As part of these commitments, the University aims to gradually reduce its carbon footprint through targeted improvements in campus infrastructure, building insulation, energy-efficient cooling and heating systems and enhanced behavioural awareness among staff and students. The institution aspires to develop a structured transition plan that will guide the University towards achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century. The University plans to strengthen renewable energy deployment by installing solar photovoltaic panels on rooftops and designated campus areas, enabling a significant share of electricity consumption to be met through clean sources in the coming years. In line with Uzbekistan’s water stress challenges, the University is committed to responsible water management through improved metering, leak detection systems, greywater reuse mechanisms and the expansion of drought-resistant landscaping across the campus. Waste minimization forms another essential component of the University’s sustainability strategy. The University aims to reduce paper use through digitalization, promote selective waste collection, strengthen recycling partnerships and gradually eliminate single-use plastics from campus operations. All new infrastructure and renovation projects must incorporate international green-building

standards, prioritize energy-efficient materials and undergo environmental impact assessments before implementation. These strategic objectives together form the basis for a resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally conscious institutional ecosystem.

#### **4. Academic Integration, Research and Innovation**

Sustainability is integrated into the “Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage’s academic mission through the development of curricula, research initiatives and co-curricular activities that promote environmental awareness and climate responsibility. The University acknowledges its unique position as an institution specializing in tourism and cultural heritage and therefore emphasizes the importance of educating students about sustainable tourism, climate-resilient heritage management and environmentally responsible travel practices. Academic departments are encouraged to include sustainability-oriented modules, case studies and field-based learning experiences that help students understand and address global environmental challenges. Research plays a critical role in the implementation of the Policy, and the University is committed to fostering interdisciplinary research clusters that work on green tourism innovation, climate adaptation strategies, environmental economics and sustainable heritage conservation. Students are encouraged to participate in applied research competitions, innovation challenges and community projects that contribute to local and national sustainability agendas. By integrating sustainability into education and research, the University aims to cultivate a new generation of environmentally conscious professionals who can contribute to the sustainable development of Uzbekistan and the wider region.

#### **5. Community Engagement and Partnerships**

“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage considers community engagement an essential pillar of its sustainability efforts. As a leading institution in the fields of tourism and cultural heritage, the University actively collaborates with national ministries, local governments, the United Nations World Tourism Organization, UNESCO, environmental agencies and civil society organizations to implement practical and high-impact sustainability initiatives. Through public awareness campaigns, training workshops, ecological clean-up

actions and student-led environmental programmes, the University seeks to stimulate environmental responsibility both within the campus and across surrounding communities. Partnerships with local tourism enterprises, cultural institutions and municipal authorities further enhance the University's ability to disseminate knowledge and promote sustainable development practices. By involving students, academic staff, community groups and tourism stakeholders, the University fosters an inclusive and participatory approach to climate action that extends beyond campus boundaries.

## **6. Governance and Implementation Mechanism**

The implementation of this Policy is coordinated through an institutional governance structure that ensures accountability, transparency and effective management of sustainability processes. A dedicated Sustainability and Climate Action Office is established to oversee policy implementation, monitor environmental indicators, organize sustainability programmes and maintain communication between faculties and administrative units. This Office also prepares regular environmental performance reports and ensures compliance with the University's sustainability commitments. In addition, an Environmental Steering Committee composed of university leadership, faculty experts, student representatives and external advisors is formed to provide strategic guidance, review progress, evaluate challenges and propose improvements. The Committee conducts regular audits, reviews departmental reports and ensures that academic and administrative planning remains aligned with the Policy's objectives. Through this governance system, the University ensures that sustainability is embedded within institutional decision-making processes at all levels.

## **7. Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance**

Monitoring and reporting are integral elements of the Policy and serve as mechanisms for evaluating institutional progress and identifying areas where further action is needed. The University regularly collects data on energy use, water consumption, waste generation, emissions performance and campus greening, and compiles these indicators into an annual Sustainability Performance Report that is made available to the public. Academic and administrative departments are required to cooperate fully with the monitoring procedures and provide the necessary

information on time. Units that do not meet expected sustainability performance levels must prepare detailed improvement plans indicating corrective measures. Contractors and external partners working with the University must comply with environmental requirements outlined in this Policy, and non-compliance may lead to sanctions or contract termination. Through systematic monitoring and transparent reporting, the University ensures that sustainability commitments are implemented consistently and effectively.

## **8. Continuous Improvement**

“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage acknowledges that sustainability is a dynamic field and requires ongoing adaptation to emerging scientific knowledge, technological developments and global environmental trends. Therefore, the Policy is reviewed annually to ensure its relevance, effectiveness and alignment with national and international frameworks. Improvements may include the introduction of new technologies, revised operational guidelines, expanded training activities and strengthened student engagement platforms. The University remains committed to fostering a campus culture that embraces innovation, collaboration and continuous learning in pursuit of a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

## **9. Final Provisions**

This Policy enters into force upon approval by the Academic Council of the Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage. All University units and personnel are responsible for ensuring its effective implementation and for integrating sustainability considerations into their daily operations. Failure to adhere to the Policy may result in administrative responsibility according to existing internal regulations. The University reaffirms its long-term commitment to sustainability and climate action and recognizes this Policy as a foundational document guiding its contribution to national development and global environmental well-being.

**First Vice-Rector for  
Administrative Affairs**

**D.A.Nasimov**