

SDG 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Urgench State University (UrSU) is a key actor in achieving **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** within the Khorezm region. By balancing the preservation of ancient cultural heritage with modern green initiatives, the university helps make Urgench and its surrounding areas more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

1. Campus Greening and Environmental Protection

UrSU is a leading participant in the national "**Yashil Makon**" (Green Space) project, which aims to combat the desertification of the Aral Sea region.

- **Expansion of Green Zones:** The university has committed to planting thousands of fruit and ornamental trees across its campus and the Urgench city area. These "green belts" help reduce dust, lower urban temperatures, and improve air quality.
- **Waste Management:** The university promotes a **3R policy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)**. Student-led initiatives focus on reducing plastic use in cafeterias and organizing paper recycling drives to minimize the campus's environmental footprint.
- **Renewable Energy:** UrSU has integrated **solar panels** and research into **biogas** technologies to power campus facilities, serving as a model for sustainable urban infrastructure in a region with high solar potential.

2. Preserving Cultural Heritage (The Khiva Connection)

Located just 30 kilometers from the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Itchan Kala (Khiva)**, UrSU plays a critical role in Target 11.4: "Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural heritage."

- **Archaeological and Historical Research:** The Faculty of History and Tourism conducts extensive research into the ancient irrigation systems and architecture of the Khorezm oasis.
- **Reviving Traditional Arts:** The university supports research on traditional **Khiva woodcarving** and architectural restoration. By training the next generation of historians and restorers, UrSU ensures that Khorezm's 2,500-year-old heritage remains a living part of the modern community.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** Through its tourism programs, the university develops "Eco-Tourism" models that allow visitors to experience Khiva without damaging its fragile historical infrastructure.

3. Sustainable Housing and Community Support

UrSU ensures that its "academic city" is accessible and supportive of its residents and the local population.

- **Student Housing Support:** The university operates an **Information Center** specifically designed to help students secure safe and affordable housing, whether in modern on-campus dormitories or vetted rental apartments in Urgench.
- **Collaboration with Mahallas:** UrSU experts work with local **Mahalla (neighborhood) assemblies** on the "Sustainable Rural Development" project. They provide architectural planning and infrastructure advice to help local villages upgrade their road systems and social facilities.
- **Inclusive Communities:** Through the **AELLCA program (Ambassadors for Inclusion & Diversity)**, the university trains "inclusion ambassadors" to ensure that campus life—and by extension, the city—is welcoming to people of all backgrounds and physical abilities.

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