

Report on GREEN CAMPUS Program Implementation

(September 2023 - June 2024)

Introduction

The "GREEN CAMPUS" program at Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU) was designed to foster sustainability and environmental consciousness among students, faculty, and the broader community. This report outlines the implementation of the action plan from September 2023 to May 2024, detailing the progress made, challenges faced, and the impact of various initiatives aimed at achieving the goals set forth in KazNARU's Climate Action Plan and Green Campus Concept.

Objectives and Achievements

1. Enhance Campus Greenery

- **Tree and Flower Planting Campaign:** The campus-wide planting events held in collaboration with several students clubs of KazNARU in September and March-April were highly successful, with over 500 trees and 1,000 flowers planted. Collaboration with local communities and international partners enriched the diversity of plant species and fostered a sense of shared responsibility.
- **Maintenance and Care:** Regular maintenance schedules ensured the health and growth of the newly planted greenery. The Greenery Awareness Week in October educated the campus community on the importance of greenery, resulting in increased volunteer participation in maintenance activities.
- **Green Campus Tour:** Tours organized in collaboration with faculties and departments of KazNARU for local schools and community members in April showcased the campus greenery and promoted environmental education, attracting over 300 participants.

2. Promote Recycling and Reuse

- **Recycling Stations:** Recycling bins for plastic bottles, paper, batteries, old mobile phones, furniture, and equipment were strategically placed around the campus. The awareness campaign launched in September successfully educated students and faculty on the importance of recycling and reusing materials.

- **Recycling Competition:** The campus-wide recycling competition held in November and April motivated the community to actively participate in recycling efforts. The competition saw a significant increase in the volume of recycled materials, with the winning team recycling over 200 kg of waste.

3. **Reduce Carbon Emissions**

- **Bicycle Parking Areas:** Safe and secure bicycle parking areas were developed, encouraging more students and faculty to bike to campus. The Walk/Bike to Campus Initiative, supported by incentives and awareness programs, resulted in a noticeable reduction in carbon emissions.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** Charging stations for electric vehicles were installed, promoting the use of eco-friendly transportation options.
- **Car-Free Day:** Monthly car-free days were organized, encouraging the campus community to walk, bike, or use public transportation. These events were well-received, with participation rates steadily increasing each month.

4. **Volunteer Engagement**

- **Volunteer Recruitment:** Volunteer recruitment efforts through campus events and social media were successful, with over 200 volunteers actively participating in sustainability initiatives.
- **SDG Campaigns:** Activities and campaigns related to the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Programme and other local and international sustainability initiatives were organized, fostering a sense of global citizenship among participants.
- **Volunteer Recognition Event:** The recognition event held in May celebrated the contributions of volunteers, boosting morale and encouraging continued involvement in Green Campus initiatives.

5. **Water and Energy Conservation**

- **Maintenance Requests:** The campus community was proactive in reporting water drips and window leaks, leading to timely repairs and significant water savings.
- **Energy Saving Campaign:** The campaign to promote turning off lights and unplugging electronics when not in use was effective, especially during nights and school breaks. The Water Conservation Workshop held in February educated the community on water-saving techniques, resulting in a noticeable reduction in water usage.

6. Educational Initiatives

- **Courses on SDGs:** Courses and training sessions on environmental and climate change studies were offered throughout the academic year. The SDG Lecture Series featured experts in sustainable development, providing in-depth knowledge and inspiring students to take action.
- **Resource Accessibility:** Information about these courses was made easily accessible through the university's website, social media, and events calendar, ensuring high enrollment and participation rates.

7. Healthy Lifestyle Promotion

- **Green Week Pledge:** The Green Week pledge encouraged students and faculty to participate in greening activities and adopt sustainable lifestyle habits. The Healthy Eating Campaign promoted sustainable food choices through workshops and events, leading to healthier eating habits among the campus community.
- **Fitness Challenge:** The campus-wide fitness challenge organized in March motivated participants to engage in physical activity, contributing to overall well-being and a healthier lifestyle.

8. Public Awareness

- **Sustainability Events:** Sustainability fairs, workshops, and seminars were organized to publicize the Green Campus project. These events attracted significant participation and increased awareness about sustainability initiatives.
- **Marketing Materials:** Posters, PowerPoints, social media, and flyers were used effectively to promote Green Campus initiatives, resulting in higher engagement and participation rates.
- **Green Campus Day:** The Green Campus Day held in April celebrated sustainability achievements and engaged the campus community in various green activities, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment.

9. Bi-monthly Workshops for Greenmetric

- **Workshop Series:** Bi-monthly workshops educated the campus community on sustainability metrics and Greenmetric standards. Guest speakers shared best practices, enhancing the knowledge and skills of participants.
- **Greenmetric Certification Training:** Training sessions on achieving Greenmetric certification for campus facilities were

well-attended, with several departments expressing interest in pursuing certification.

10. Bi-monthly Plastic Collection Events

- **Plastic Collection Drives:** Bi-monthly plastic collection events were conducted, with active participation in the national competition "3-2-1-Start". The campus community collected over 500 kg of plastic waste, contributing to the competition's success.
- **Plastic Art Exhibition:** The exhibition showcasing art made from collected plastic raised awareness about recycling and inspired creative solutions to waste management.
- **KazNARU won 4th place in the national companioning Plastic collection “3-2-1-START”** and received an award in a special ceremony in Astana in June 2024.

11. Bi-monthly ESG Training Events

- **ESG Training Sessions:** Bi-monthly training events on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles provided practical knowledge on ESG implementation. Interactive workshops engaged participants and fostered a deeper understanding of ESG concepts.
- **ESG Certification Program:** The certification program for students and faculty who completed the ESG training sessions was launched, with over 50 participants receiving certification.

12. Quarterly Model UN Events on SDGs

- **Model UN Conferences:** Quarterly Model UN events focused on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were hosted, encouraging student participation and leadership. These conferences provided a platform for critical discussions on global sustainability issues.
- **SDG Debate Series:** The debate series on SDGs engaged students in meaningful discussions, enhancing their understanding of global challenges and fostering a sense of responsibility.

Challenges and Solutions

- **Engagement and Participation:** While overall participation was high, some initiatives faced challenges in maintaining consistent engagement. Solutions included offering incentives, increasing promotional efforts, and providing more interactive and hands-on activities.

- **Resource Allocation:** Ensuring adequate resources for all initiatives was a challenge. Collaboration with local businesses and international partners helped secure additional funding and resources.
- **Time Management:** Balancing academic responsibilities with participation in Green Campus initiatives required effective time management. Flexible scheduling and support from faculty helped students manage their commitments.

Impact and Future Directions

The implementation of the "GREEN CAMPUS" program has had a significant positive impact on KazNARU's campus and community. The increased greenery, reduced carbon emissions, and heightened awareness of sustainability practices have contributed to a healthier and more environmentally conscious campus. The success of the program has set a benchmark for other universities in Kazakhstan, inspiring them to develop their own Green Campus projects.

Moving forward, KazNARU plans to expand the scope of the Green Campus program by introducing new initiatives, enhancing existing ones, and fostering greater collaboration with local and international partners. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will ensure the program's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Conclusion

The "GREEN CAMPUS" program at KazNARU has successfully implemented a comprehensive action plan 2023-2024 aimed at fostering sustainability and environmental consciousness. Through various initiatives and events, the program has engaged the campus community, promoted sustainable practices, and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The positive impact of the program is evident in the increased greenery, reduced carbon emissions, and heightened awareness of sustainability practices. KazNARU remains committed to building a sustainable future and setting a benchmark for other universities in Kazakhstan. Together, we can make a difference today for a sustainable tomorrow.