MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

POLTAVA STATE AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY

PLAN
FOR ENSURING THE POLICY OF STRIVING FOR A CARBON-NEUTRAL POLTAVA STATE AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY (2025–2030)

Poltava 2025

1. Introduction

Poltava State Agrarian University (PSAU), recognizing the urgency of the global climate change challenge and the necessity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is committed to implementing a policy aimed at achieving carbon-neutral status.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Climate Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, the European Green Deal, and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol).

1.1. The main objective of this Plan is to ensure that Poltava State Agrarian University (hereinafter – the University) achieves carbon-neutral status by 2030 through the systemic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the transition to renewable energy sources, the implementation of energy-efficient technologies, and the promotion of environmental awareness and culture within the university community.

1.2. Achieving carbon-neutral status entails conducting an inventory and continuous monitoring of emissions, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and transport infrastructure, expanding the use of environmentally friendly technologies, introducing a system for separate waste collection and recycling, as well as implementing measures to offset residual emissions through greening initiatives and the development of carbon projects.

1.3. Relevance and compliance.

Ensuring the policy of striving for carbon-neutral development at Poltava State Agrarian University is extremely relevant in the current context of global climate challenges. The increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, rising average annual temperatures, and the negative impact on agriculture directly require educational and scientific institutions to not only conduct scientific analysis, but also take practical action aimed at reducing their carbon footprint.

The University's plan is aligned with Ukraine's national commitments to implement the Paris Climate Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, Ukraine's nationally determined contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the priorities of the European Green Deal. It is consistent with Ukraine's strategic environmental policy and energy strategy documents, which set a benchmark for reducing anthropogenic impact on the climate system.

In addition, the implementation of the plan is fully consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular:

Goal 7. Affordable and clean energy – through the introduction of renewable sources and energy-efficient technologies;

Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities – through the development of environmental infrastructure and transport solutions;

Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production – through the optimization of resource use and waste management systems;

Goal 13. Climate action – through the reduction of emissions and the implementation of compensation measures;

Goal 15. Life on land – through the expansion of green areas and agroforestry programs.

Thus, the plan is not only an internal document of the University, but also an important component of the national and international strategy to combat climate change, which enhances the University's reputation as a modern educational and scientific center integrated into the global movement for sustainable development.

1.4. Basic principles of the plan.

1. Scientific basis – use of international standards and methods for emissions accounting.

2. Transparency – public disclosure of data on emissions and measures to reduce them.

3. Systemic approach – coverage of all areas of the University's activities.

4. Innovation – introduction of modern technologies and green solutions.

5. Participation – involving students of all levels, academic and research staff, and partners in the implementation of the plan.

6. Responsibility – taking environmental aspects into account in strategic planning and management.

2. Strategic and Specific Goals

2.1. Strategic Goals.

Conduct a comprehensive inventory of the University's emissions, identifying all sources of greenhouse gases, including direct emissions (fuel combustion, equipment operation, transport) and indirect emissions (consumption of electricity, water, heat, waste). This will establish a baseline for ongoing monitoring and the development of effective measures to reduce emissions.

Ensure a 30% reduction in energy consumption by 2027 through the gradual implementation of energy-saving technologies, modernization of buildings and engineering networks, insulation of premises, use of LED lighting, and automated energy metering systems. By 2030, achieve 50% use of renewable energy sources by implementing solar power plants, heat pumps, biogas facilities, and other modern technologies, thereby significantly reducing the University's carbon footprint.

Optimize the University's transport policy by gradually reducing the use of conventional fossil fuels, developing bicycle infrastructure, and encouraging the use of public transport. This will contribute to emission reductions, decrease transportation-related burdens, and promote a healthy lifestyle among students and staff.

Implement a comprehensive waste management system, including sorting, recycling, and composting, to minimize the University's negative impact on the environment, ensure compliance with international climate standards, and enhance environmental awareness among students and staff.

Integrate climate neutrality and sustainable development topics into the University's educational programs, including lectures, practical classes, laboratory work, and seminars, as well as ensure their inclusion in research projects

and theses. This aims to develop students' environmental competence and enhance the University's scientific contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Establish partnerships with international organizations, educational and research institutions, as well as donor and grant agencies to integrate the University into global sustainable development networks, attract financial resources for the implementation of environmental and energy-efficient projects, and facilitate the exchange of experience and technologies to achieve carbon neutrality.

2.2. Specific Goals and Initiatives

Energy Management – modernization of lighting, heating, and ventilation systems; use of renewable energy sources (solar panels, heat pumps, bioenergy).

Transport Strategy – creating conditions for bicycle use; optimization of the official vehicle fleet.

Rational Resource Use – digitalization of document management; reduction of paper and plastic consumption.

Green Projects – tree planting, maintenance of green areas, creation of biodiverse plots.

Educational and Research Activities – introduction of courses on climate policy and green economy; establishment of research laboratories in renewable energy.

International Partnerships and Funding – participation in grant programs (Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, USAID, GEF); collaboration with businesses and local communities.

3. Analysis and Monitoring Stage

3.1. Implementation of a greenhouse gas accounting system across all levels of the University's activities, with regular data collection, analysis, and systematization. This will enable the preparation of an annual "University Carbon Report," providing transparent information on emission volumes, progress in their reduction, and the effectiveness of implemented measures.

3.2. Assessment of progress using key indicators, including energy consumption reduction, waste generation reduction, the level of renewable energy use, and the effectiveness of greenhouse gas emission reduction measures, with the aim of regular monitoring, analysis, and ensuring the achievement of established goals in climate neutrality and sustainable development.

3.3. Conducting internal and external audits, including regular verification of all emissions accounting systems, energy consumption, waste management, and use of renewable energy sources, with the aim of assessing the effectiveness of implemented measures, identifying potential shortcomings, and developing recommendations to enhance the University's carbon neutrality.

4. Expected Results.

4.1. Achieving carbon-neutral status of the University by 2030.
4.2. Establishing the University as a regional center for climate education and innovation.
4.3. Enhancing the environmental awareness and culture of students and staff.
4.4. Contributing to the fulfillment of Ukraine's climate commitments.