

Enlightenment Activities

Since 2022, Samara State Technical University (SSTU) has been a member of the Association of Green Universities of Russia and in 2024 ranked among the Top 7 environmentally oriented universities in the country. The university conducts enlightenment activities by creating an integrated system of environmental education, transforming environmental consciousness, institutionalizing ecological culture, and integrating sustainable development principles into all components of the university infrastructure.

The SSTU EcoClub "Life" acts as the primary promoter of environmentally responsible lifestyles and ecological education and culture. In 2024, the EcoClub ranked in the Top 3 of the "Green League" rating, confirming its leading role in fostering ecological culture within student organizations.

Students and staff of SSTU are active participants in various environmental projects. For instance, in the regional "EcoLeader-2024" contest organized by the Ministry of Forestry, Environmental Protection, and Nature Management of the Samara Region, awards were conferred to Andrey Vasilyev, Head of the Department of Technosphere Safety and Quality Management at SSTU (First Degree Diploma in the "Professional" category); Ivan Karanov, a student of the Higher School of Biotechnology (First Degree Diploma in the "Enthusiast" category); and the EcoClub "Life" SSTU (First Degree Diploma in the "Community" category).

In 2024, the student media project "Station 'Green Ark'"—a collection of ecological podcasts addressing current environmental issues, solutions, and individual roles in environmental conservation—was a winner of the Rosmolodezh grant competition. The Governor of the Samara Region also recognized this educational project for its significance in cultivating an ecologically responsible society, enhancing environmental safety, and increasing the region's investment appeal.

Under the project "Eco-Balance," supported by the Komsolmolskaya Pravda publishing house and aimed at promoting ecological responsibility, the EcoClub "Life" was awarded for active collaboration in environmental safety and protection within the Samara Region.

EcoClub activists were granted the status of public inspectors by the Ministry of Forestry, Environmental Protection, and Nature Management of the Samara Region, authorizing them to implement environmental initiatives, conduct ecological education in schools, submit project proposals to relevant authorities, and document violations of environmental legislation, forwarding materials to state bodies. This status reinforces formal collaboration between civil institutions and government agencies in environmental oversight.

The EcoClub team successfully developed and carried out a greening project on college grounds, improving ecological conditions, enhancing aesthetic appeal, and promoting responsible environmental attitudes among students.

The university also demonstrates achievements in innovative construction solutions, including sustainable territorial development models and modern urban planning approaches. At the Urban Initiatives Center "UrbanClub," four significant architectural and urban planning projects were implemented in 2024 on behalf of the regional government. This is exemplified by the success of the "Salam! Yäläm" project by SSTU master's students in the nationwide "My River" competition, showcasing effective integration of ethnocultural heritage (Chuvash ornaments, symbols) into contemporary urban solutions. Their model of sustainable coastal area development combines environmental soundness (ecotrails, landscape preservation) with socio-economic activation (tourism, inclusive environments). Such interdisciplinary approaches aid in preserving regional identity within Russia's spatial development strategies. SSTU also implements social, event-based, and ecological volunteering programs, advancing major cultural (including architectural monument restoration), historical, and tourism volunteering projects.

A key university initiative reducing the negative environmental impact of transportation is the "Bike Ride," commemorating the 110th anniversary of SSTU and the 40th anniversary of the National Park "Samarskaya Luka." The event is both a sporting occasion and an important campaign to raise ecological awareness and promote active lifestyles. Its program includes ecological workshops and a community clean-up, fostering responsible environmental attitudes. The route through protected zones offers participants exposure to the region's natural heritage, supports ecotourism development, and serves as a foundation for further research in sustainable development and environmental protection in the context of mass events.

In 2024, SSTU expanded its unique herbarium collection—the only one of its kind in the Samara Region—established in 2020 under Associate Professor Olga Kozlovskaya of the Department of Chemical Technology and Industrial Ecology. It includes weeds from anthropogenically disturbed sites and consists of over 800 specimens, some provided by the

Institute of Ecology of the Volga Basin of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The collection, recorded in the "Black Book of Plants of the Samara Region," serves as a scientific research foundation. Students gather samples during field expeditions, with future plans to include the collection in the international Index Herbariorum system and create an open electronic resource to improve accessibility to data on invasive plants and their impact on regional biodiversity.

In 2024, SSTU and its partners organized more than 100 environmental and charitable campaigns, conducted over 35 community clean-ups, including at the "Polytech" and "Builder" summer camps. More than four tons of waste paper, 48 kg of aluminum cans, 20 kg of plastic caps, and 5 kg of egg cartons were collected through the efforts of over 150 EcoClub "Life" activists, including volunteers and eco-volunteers. The total ecological education outreach reached about 1,500 schoolchildren and approximately 3,000 students.

The university's participation in international sustainability rankings serves as a strategic tool for integrating ecological activities into the global educational space, enabling objective assessments of green practices' effectiveness based on international standards and strengthening competitive positions by demonstrating alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, SSTU ranked 21st among 50 Russian universities in the UI Green Metric World University Ranking (754th place among 1,477 institutions from 95 countries), entering the Top 4 Russian universities performing educational activities related to sustainable development. In the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024, SSTU was ranked between 1001–1500 among 1,963 universities worldwide.

SSTU implements projects aimed at ecological education for schoolchildren and students, carrying out activities in three main areas:

1. Educational Projects:

- 10th Inter-University Festival "VuzEcoFest-2024"
- Russian Ecological Week at SSTU
- "EcoTrend" Festival
- Russian Ecological Forum of PPK REO
- Eco-lessons by PPK REO at the Samara Quantorium
- All-Russian Environmental Dictation
- Lecture series on "Applied Ecology" for grades 7–9 (72 hours) at the Samara Polytech Boiling Point
- Educational-interactive debate game "Judgment Day"
- Ecological quests "EcoErudite," "Green Mafia," "Crime Scene"
- Entertaining-educational quest "Touristic Ecological" at SSTU
- Quizzes "Ecology," "Every Drop Counts"
- Case championship "Green Cup" at SSTU
- Career orientation trip to AO "Soft Roofing" plant
- 2nd Regional Craft Competition "Second Life of Waste"
- Online marathon "Ecosystem of Eco-Habits"
- "Conversation about the Important" – a meeting with F.N. Yurchikhin, Russian cosmonaut, Hero of Russia, deputy chairman of the All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation
- Voluntary educational campaign "Open Laboratory"
- Excursion to EcoTechnoPark
- Eco-GTO
- Eco-masterclasses: tree felling for schoolchildren; "Eco-Feeders"; "Eco-Toys"
- Eco-lessons for different age groups in Samara city and region schools
- Eco-lessons for youngest children at preschool kindergarten No. 279 in Samara city
- Student lectures on waste sorting conducted at the university campus
- Enlightenment campaign by "Green League" on "Green Wave"

2. Scientific and Practical Projects:

- 3rd Intergenerational Conference dedicated to Earth Day – Earth Ecology
- Round tables on "Enterprise Ecological Safety in the Context of Sustainable Development Strategy" and "Circular Economy Innovations" at SSTU as part of the 10th Inter-University Festival "VuzEcoFest-2024"

3. Ecological Volunteering:

- Community clean-ups: Eco-Balance with KP-Samara; at the National Park "Samarskaya Luka"; metalworking plant square jointly with Samara branch of REO; "Seaweed Shutdown: Up the Volga" campaign with the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services of the Samara Region
- Environmental campaigns: tree planting "Save the Forest," "Memory Garden" with the Ministry of Ecology of the Samara Region; riverbank cleaning of the Volga River with Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper for Volga Day, including Proran Island

- Support visits to shelters "FlagmanVet," "Khati"
- Bike ride dedicated to the 110th anniversary of the Polytech and 40th anniversary of Samarskaya Luka in the Christmas Forestry of the National Park "Samarskaya Luka"
- Collection of office equipment, waste paper, plastic caps, tin cans, e-cigarettes
- Installation of separate waste collection containers for paper, aluminum, and plastic bottles

This extensive and multifaceted approach demonstrates SSTU's commitment to environmental enlightenment, culture, safety, and sustainable practices in the educational and wider community spheres.

Organizer and participant of eco-events

