

Enlightenment

Since 2022, Samara State Technical University has been a member of the Association of Green Universities of Russia. In 2025, the university was ranked among the top three environmentally responsible universities in the country. In fulfilling its mission, the university conducts systematic educational activities aimed at developing environmental awareness, fostering a culture of sustainable development, and integrating green principles into all areas of the university's infrastructure.

The EcoClub "Life" at Samara State Technical University has assumed the role of the main facilitator of green initiatives at the university. Its membership numbers over 180, and its activities encompass both education and practical actions: waste separation, eco-campaigns, tree planting, and energy-saving projects. The club is becoming a platform where students not only gain knowledge about sustainable development but also participate in the transformation of the university environment, turning environmental awareness from a slogan into daily practice.

The Samara State Technical University team's proactive environmental stance is consistently recognized at the regional and international levels. For example, Andrey Vasiliev, head of the Department of Technosphere Safety and Quality Management, received high praise in the "EcoLeader-2025" competition, organized by the Samara Region Ministry. He was awarded the honorary title of "EcoLeader" among professionals—further confirmation that the university's scientists and students not only conduct research but also make a tangible contribution to environmental conservation.

This year, Samara Polytech University was once again recognized as a leader in the regional project "Ecobalance," implemented with the support of the Komsomolskaya Pravda publishing house and aimed at promoting environmental responsibility. The environmental club "Life" was awarded a diploma for its responsible attitude toward nature and environmental education of youth, while club director Alina Kopnina and students Victoria Glushkova and Bogdan Golubev received letters of gratitude. Special mention was also made of the "Green Boat" project, implemented under Glushkova's leadership—a collection of environmental podcasts covering current environmental issues, solutions, and the role of each person in preserving the environment. It received a grant from Rosmolodezh in 2024 and will continue to develop in 2025.

In 2025, Samara State Technical University, together with its partners, brought together more than 2,300 people, organizing over 100 environmental and charity events. These included large-scale cleanup days held on the shoreline of Zelenenkiy Island as part of the "We Clean the World" campaign, along the left bank of the Volga River near Krasnaya Glinka, in the botanical garden, in the village of Kryazh, and in other public areas, including the student health camps "Polytechnic" and "Stroitel." The 180-member EcoClub "Life" collected significant amounts of recyclable materials: over 2.5 tons of waste paper, 89 kg of aluminum cans, as well as tin cans, plastic bottles, plastic caps, egg cartons, and disposable e-cigarettes. Members of the student union, volunteers, and the university's eco-volunteers also participated in the eco-projects. Samara State Technical University (SSTU) environmental activists are committed to reforestation and, in 2025, participated in tree planting as part of the "Garden of Memory" campaign and planted 350 pine saplings as part of the nationwide "Save the Forest" campaign. SSTU's environmental activities include key environmental initiatives such as restoration of green spaces and cleanup of coastal zones and public areas, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to preserving the region's natural heritage.

Activists from the EcoClub "Life" at Samara State Technical University (Samara State Technical University) participated in the opening of the first modern "EcoPoint" for recycling in the Samara Region. The new waste sorting site, located at 1g, 22 Partsyezda Street, was

created as part of a pilot project between Acron Holding and the regional Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. For the club members, who regularly organize waste paper, plastic, and metal collection at the university, the opening of this point was a significant event: they can recycle a wide range of materials, from household appliances and electronics to tires, textiles, and scrap metal. The main requirement is that the raw materials are clean (no tape, stickers, or liquids). The collected waste is sent for recycling, which fully aligns with the principles of a circular economy.

Environmental education for the younger generation is one of Samara State Technical University's priority areas, implemented through a series of projects for schoolchildren and students:

- Opening of the International Environmental Congress "ELPIT – 2025"
- VuzEcoFest 2025
- Iv-th Inter-Age Conference on Earth Day - Earth Ecology
- Case Championship "Green Cup"
- Ecological festival "ECOTrend-2025"
- Eco-debate
- Press conference on the Ministry's activities in the area of managing specially protected natural areas of regional significance
- Roundtable discussion: "Adaptation to Climate Change at the University Level and in the Samara Region as a Whole"
- EcoClub's birthday
- Roundtable discussion on "Sustainable Development of the Samara Region in the Field of Environmental Protection"
- Open Lecture: "Environmental Support for Documentation on Construction of Oil and Gas Field Development Facilities"
- Interactive lecture "On forms of unfair environmental marketing and ways to recognize it"
- All-Russian campaign "Save the Forest"
- World Water Quality Monitoring Day
- Open Day at Samara State Technical University
- Closed film screening from the Green Boat Station media project
- Creative evening "The Land Between the Volga and the Stars"
- Intellectual Quest "Game Solyanka"
- Intellectual quiz game "Own Game"
- Master class for schoolchildren at the DNA of SamSTU
- An eco-lesson at the Samara State Technical University's House of Scientific Collaboration
- Eco-lesson for schoolchildren in the DNA of Samara State Technical University
- Eco-lesson at School No. 132 in Samara
- Ecological fair
- - lessons at the secondary school in Tashelka
- Eco-lesson at the Lyceum in I Sakly
- An eco-lesson at School No. 57 in the Samara district
- An eco-lesson at School No. 132 named after Hero of the Soviet Union G.P. Gubanov
- Aktiva School 2025
- Cleanup day in the Botanical Garden
- A cleanup day at the Grieving Mother's Square in the village of Kryazh
- Cleanup day in the village of Rozhdestveno
- Cleanup day at the Zhiguli State Nature Reserve
- Cleanup day in Samara Luka National Park
- Cleanup day in the Kirovsky district
- Subbotnik on Z. Elenenkiy Island

- Online clean- up day
- Cleanup campaign along the left bank of the Volga River
- Opening of the eco-point
- Tour of the #GIVINGBACK organization
- Tour of the Baltika-Samara brewery
- Departure to the shelter "Hope"
- Master class at the Samara Sports Lyceum

Samara State Technical University, together with the Union of Writers of Russia, the Ministry of Culture of the Samara Region, and the Council of Rectors of Regional Universities, held the 2nd All-Russian competition "Ecology of the Soul" based on the creative legacy of A.S. Malinovsky, with the participation of authors from neighboring and distant countries. The competition fits seamlessly into Samara State Technical University's environmental strategy, as it interprets ecology in a broad sense—not only as caring for the natural environment, but also as harmonizing the human inner world, spiritual and moral values. In the context of sustainable development, this approach emphasizes the social dimension: cultivating responsible individuals capable of caring for themselves, others, and the environment. It is through culture and literature that the deep environmental awareness is formed, without which the full implementation of sustainable development principles is impossible. The resulting collection, "Ecology of the Soul," serves as tangible evidence that spiritual and moral education can be an effective tool for environmental awareness.

Beyond educational activities, the university is actively involved in project work in the field of innovative construction. Its competencies encompass the development of models for the balanced development of urban and natural areas, as well as the implementation of advanced urban solutions that combine technological progress with environmental responsibility. In 2025, activists from the UrbanClub Center for Urban Initiatives developed a project to improve the school grounds of the Roshchinsky Educational Center ; a project to modernize the educational environment of School No. 12 in Syzran and a school in the urban-type settlement. Belosheika ; the innovation concept for the offices of the Volga region branch of Sberbank; the brand book of the women's football club "Wings of the Soviets"; a conceptual design for the modernization of the SamSTU campus, and an interior design project for the hall in the academic building of Saratov State Economic University. Members of the student club acted as co-executors of architectural, urban planning, and urban development projects commissioned by the Department of Urban Development of the Samara City District and the Department of Economic Development, Investment, and Trade of the Samara City Administration:

- development of projects for the improvement of public areas for the section "Street and Square Standard" of the "Concept of Sustainable Development of the Historical Settlement of the City District of Samara";

- justification for including the "Student Quarter" project in the Strategy for Socioeconomic Development of the City of Samara until 2036 as a flagship project.

Recognition of SamSTU as a regional eco-leader allows the university to participate in global sustainability rankings and serves as a strategic tool for entering the international educational arena. This allows for an independent assessment of the effectiveness of implemented green practices according to generally accepted standards, and also enhances the university's competitiveness by confirming its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In the reporting year, SamSTU rose to 19th place among 49 Russian participants in the UI Green Metric ranking (859th place out of 1,745 educational institutions in 105 countries). In the global Times Higher Education ranking, Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025, the university secured a position in the 1001–1500 group among 2,318 universities worldwide.