



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

COP29 AZERBAIJAN SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

In solidarity for a Green World

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01. Foreword



1. Foreword

It is with immense pride that we present the COP29 Sustainability Report, reflecting our commitment to delivering a climate conference that not only advances global climate action but also embodies sustainability in every aspect of its operations.

For the Government and people of Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 has been both an honour and a responsibility. This was the most significant international summit our nation has ever organized, and it took place in the largest temporary meeting space ever built in Baku. COP29 demonstrated the global urgency and commitment to addressing the climate crisis.

From the outset, we were determined to set a new benchmark for sustainability. Our commitment was clear: to provide a safe, secure, and inclusive event while ensuring that sustainability was embedded in every element of its operations. To turn ambition into

action, COP29 achieved international accreditation for sustainable event management, proving our dedication to responsible practices. One of our most significant achievements was in carbon accounting, ensuring that all emissions related to COP operations, before, during and after the event, were managed in line with international best practices. We developed a comprehensive emissions reduction plan, and for the first time in Azerbaijan and COP history, all event operations were powered by locally sourced green electricity—a milestone in our nation's sustainability journey.

None of this would have been possible without the spirit of collaboration that defined COP29. I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and every individual who contributed to making this event a success. Their collective efforts have not only shaped COP29 but have also left a lasting legacy for Azerbaijan and the world.

This Sustainability Report offers a detailed account of our journey—our achievements, our challenges, and the lessons we hope will inspire future COP hosts to build on our progress.

Together, we must continue to push the boundaries of what is possible. The legacy of COP29 is not just in the agreements reached but in the example we have set for sustainable and impactful global climate action.

Mukhtar Babayev,
COP29 President.



As the foremost global platform for climate action, COP is not only a space for negotiations but also a stage to showcase solutions and lead by example. At COP29, we set out to prove that a large-scale international event can be fully aligned with sustainability principles—demonstrating that if we can do it here, we can do it globally. By embedding sustainability into every facet of our planning and execution, we are sending a clear message: transitioning to a more sustainable world is not just necessary, but entirely possible with the right commitment and action.

I, as the Chief Operating Officer for COP29 and Chief Executive Officer of the COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company, am honored to present our Sustainability Report, which encapsulates our unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and inclusivity.

From the outset, our mission has been to create a conference environment that facilitates meaningful dialogue and exemplifies sustainable practices. Guided by seven key principles—carbon neutrality, accessibility, legacy and continuity, inclusivity, transparency and accountability, safety for all, and the promotion of sustainable practices—we have meticulously planned every aspect of COP29.

Our comprehensive materiality assessment, conducted in consultation with government bodies, businesses, civil society, and international partners, highlighted critical areas of focus: reducing carbon emissions, enhancing accessibility, minimizing waste, and fostering a legacy of sustainable

infrastructure for Baku. We benchmarked our sustainability performance against best practices from previous COP summits and other major international events, integrating key learnings into all layers of operational planning.

In our pursuit of carbon neutrality, we prioritized sourcing renewable energy for the conference and expanded transport options, including the incorporation of electric buses and micro-mobility lanes, to reduce the overall carbon footprint. We emphasized the importance of waste management to all vendors, requiring the use of eco-certified materials. Inclusivity and accessibility have been at the forefront of our planning. We have enhanced the number of lanes and access points for wheelchair users in public screening areas and introduced measures to support attendees with mobility challenges. Notably, for the first time at a COP summit, we offered sign language interpretation to assist those with visual impairments. As a result, these efforts contributed to making this one of the more accessible COPs to date, setting the highest standards of accessibility ever implemented.

Our goal has been to create an atmosphere that enables ambitious and meaningful talks and negotiations. We hope to set a standard for future conferences and foster a long-term legacy for Baku, where every effort counts, and every voice is heard.

Beyond the event itself, the sustainability legacy of COP29 will have a lasting impact on Baku and Azerbaijan as a whole. As the host of this global conference for the first time,



Azerbaijan has embraced an important transition toward sustainable policies and practices, reinforcing our country's long-term commitment to protecting the environment. Hosting the conference has catalyzed significant progress—improving infrastructure, raising awareness, and setting new benchmarks that will shape the nation's sustainability trajectory for years to come. As you delve into this report, you will find a detailed account of our sustainability commitments and the actions we have taken to uphold them. We are proud of the strides we have made and remain dedicated to continuous improvement in our collective fight against the climate crisis.

Narmin Jarchalova
Chief Operating Officer for COP29,
Chair of COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company.

02. Overview of COP29



2. Overview of COP29

The 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024, under the presidency of Azerbaijan. As the largest event hosted by Azerbaijan and second largest COP ever, COP29 brought together representatives from 196 countries, including heads of state, government officials, negotiators, civil society organizations and industry leaders, to agree on the actions to address the climate crisis. At COP29, the Presidency delivered the largest ever UN finance

commitment – the Baku Finance Goal to mobilise \$300 billion a year to the developing world by 2035 and scale up wider efforts to reach \$1.3 trillion per year. In addition, the COP29 Presidency achieved a breakthrough on UN carbon markets that could reach \$1.3 trillion per year. The conference also reinforced the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and gender considerations, while ensuring robust civil society participation—all crucial steps in strengthening global climate action and setting

a clear course for the future. As the host and Presidency of COP29, we worked intensively and provided leadership with clear expectation. Azerbaijan played a pivotal role in facilitating diplomatic engagement and strengthening climate commitments. The conference highlighted Azerbaijan's growing leadership in climate diplomacy, providing a platform to drive consensus on critical issues, including climate finance, carbon markets, and sustainable adaptation strategies.



COP29 Logo Significance



Rooted in the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, the buta motif not only symbolises sustainability and innovation, but also represents a bridge connecting the past with the future. The combination of butas represents unity, and the butas in the form of illustrative water drops represent five different elements in themselves: flora and fauna, air and

wind, water, energy, and the universe. The logo of COP29 reflects the importance of the uninterrupted connection between humanity and the environment, and result-oriented action.



Nature

Buta as Leaf: Plants are the ultimate carbon capture and storage machines of nature. Like great carbon sinks, woods and forests absorb atmospheric carbon and lock it up for centuries. We need them for our communities to exist.



Air

Buta as Air: The current climate crisis is mostly about the atmosphere. About striking a correct balance between its component parts to keep global warming at an acceptable level. It is also about cleaning the air of the harmful particles, so that the world can enjoy the breeze it deserves.



Water

Buta as Water Drop: Envisioning the Buta as a water drop evokes the essential, life-giving nature of water — a resource that nourishes communities, sustains agriculture, and preserves biodiversity. Yes, the impacts of climate change are starkly visible in our water systems through sea level rise, prolonged droughts, and devastating floods. Water sustainability is about ensuring the continuous availability of fresh water for future generations even as our global supply faces unprecedented challenges. This timeless symbol of renewal inspires us to commit to protecting our most vital resource.



Energy

Buta as Energy: The Buta, a revered symbol in Azerbaijan, evokes the timeless imagery of fire, where the mountains seem to breathe life into the landscape. Today, this powerful emblem is reimagined as a call to transform our relationship with energy. The challenge is to “green up” fire by reducing its carbon footprint, while capturing and efficiently harnessing its energy to drive us toward a net-zero future. In this vision, the ancient flame inspires innovative clean energy solutions that honor tradition while forging a sustainable path forward.



Universe

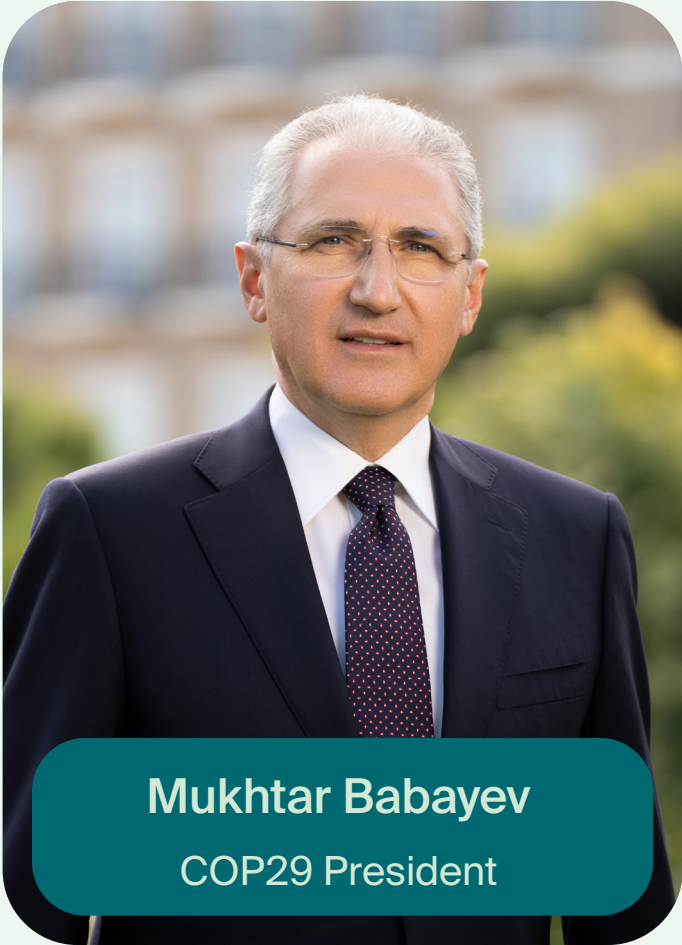
Buta as Universe: Two butas reversed and combined become a circle – a symbol of the world, the sun, the universe, eternity, sustainability, and unity. This symbol of wholeness and continuity encapsulates our shared home, reminding us that sustainability and unity are essential for our collective future. It calls upon us to join together in safeguarding our common world, forging an unbreakable bond that transcends time and inspires action for generations to come

COP29

Governance and advisory structure

COP29's governance system was designed for transparency, inclusivity, and expert-led decision-making, with the Presidency Team and advisory committees providing strong leadership and strategic oversight reflecting Azerbaijan's thorough and structured approach to event planning.

COP29 Presidency Team



Mukhtar Babayev
COP29 President

The COP29 Presidency Team was led by H.E. Mukhtar Babayev, the COP29 President, who harnessed his extensive experience in environmental policy, leading Azerbaijan's climate efforts as then Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources. Yalchin Rafiyev, the Lead Negotiator, guided diplomatic efforts to build consensus among Parties and



Yalchin Rafiyev
COP29 Lead Negotiator



Elnur Soltanov
Chief Executive Officer
of COP29

refine potential areas of convergence with a shared vision. Elnur Soltanov, the Chief Executive Officer, Nigar Arpadarai, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, worked to ensure delivery of the event in alignment with the defined agenda and strengthened engagement with non-state actors.



Narmin Jarchalova
Chair of COP29 Azerbaijan
Operating Company and Chief
Operating Officer for COP29



Nigar Arpadarai
Climate Change High-Level
Champion for COP29

Narmin Jarchalova, the Chief Operating Officer and Chair of COP29 Azerbaijan oversaw the successful and sustainable delivery of COP29. Leyla Hasanova, the Youth Climate Champion, amplified youth participation in global climate diplomacy, conveying the message of taking a collaborative action on addressing climate change impacts.



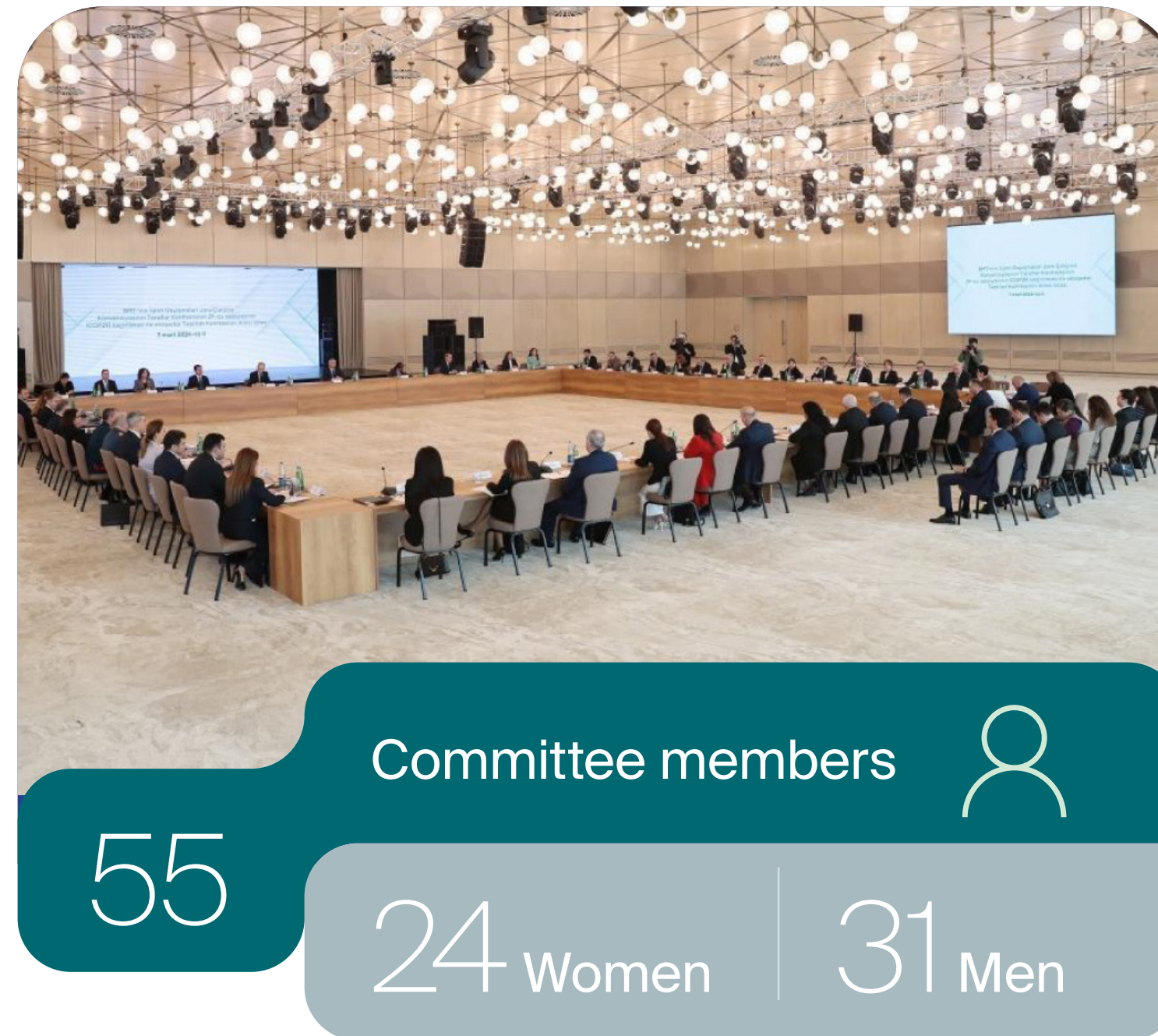
Leyla Hasanova
Youth Climate Champion
for COP29

COP29 organizing committee

The COP29 Organising Committee was a cornerstone of the conference's success, established by an official mandate from the President of Azerbaijan on January 13, 2024. Chaired by Samir Nuriyev, Head of the Presidential Administration, the committee was composed of 56 high-ranking members—including ministers, members of the National Assembly, and other senior state officials—tasked with steering the multifaceted organizational efforts of COP29. Tasked with overseeing every operational aspect of the conference, the Organising Committee played a vital role in ensuring that COP29 runs smoothly and meets its ambitious objectives. Its responsibilities ranged from managing logistics and venue arrangements to coordinating digital services, interpretation, and sustainability initiatives.

COP29 International advisory committee

To ensure a broad and inclusive approach to COP29, the COP29 Presidency established the International Advisory Committee (COP29 IAC), bringing together distinguished experts from finance, government, academia,



entrepreneurship, and civil society. The IAC provided multi-stakeholder guidance, expert insights, and strategic recommendations on key climate issues, shaping COP29's policies and initiatives. Its primary objectives included enhancing international collaboration, integrating scientific research and best practices, mobilizing resources and promoting transparency and accountability.

As a strategic advisory body, the Committee offered sector-specific geopolitical and market expertise, reviewed COP

strategies, advised on negotiations, and recommended practical solutions for global climate challenges. Operating through monthly meetings, virtual discussions, and digital platforms, the IAC played a crucial role in ensuring COP29 outcomes were informed, inclusive, and action oriented.



VAIRA VIKE-FREIBERGA (LATVIA)
Co-chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, President of Latvia (1999-2007)



TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS (ETHIOPIA)
WHO Director-General



MARIA FERNANDA ESPINOSA (ECUADOR)
President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, the member of the COP28 Advisory Committee



ISMAIL SERAGELDIN (EGYPT)
Co-chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, Vice-President of the World Bank (1992-2000), Chairman Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (1994-2000), Chairman of the Global Water Partnership (1996-2000)



CSABA KOROSI (HUNGARY)
President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly



ROSEN PLEVNELIEV (BULGARIA)
Former President of Bulgaria (2012-2017)



MAIMUNAH MOHD SHARIF (MALAYSIA)
Former Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



MAKHTAR DIOP
Managing Director IFC



HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM (CHAD)
President of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad, the member of the COP28 Advisory Committee



ENGİN ALTAN DÜZYATAN (TÜRKİYE)
Environmental Advocate and Actor



JOYCE BANDA (MALAWI)
Former President of Malawi (2012-2014)



PATRICIA ESPINOSA CANTELLANO (MEXICO)
Former Executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



JEAN BADERSCHNEIDER (USA)
Board of Directors of Fortescue Metals and Fortescue Future Industries, Chair of the Board, The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, Vice-President of the ExxonMobil (2000-2013)



XU HUAQING (CHINA)
Director of China's National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation



EMIL CONSTANTINESCU (ROMANIA)
Former President of Romania (1996-2000)



REYHAN JAMALOVA (AZERBAIJAN)
Invented 'Rainergy,' which is designed to harvest rainwater as a source of electricity. Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia honoree. BBC 100 Women honoree.



IZABELLA TEIXEIRA (BRAZIL)
Former Minister of Environment, the member of the COP28 Advisory Committee



JESSICA OMUKUTI (KENYA)
Research fellow on inclusive net zero at the Oxford Net-Zero Institute for Science Innovation and Society (InSIS), Oxford University

Global participation and COP requirements

COP29 followed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regulations, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and sustainability in its planning and operations. With over 40,000 foreign delegations participating, COP29 became the largest event hosted in Azerbaijan.

The event saw high-level negotiations, involving international leaders, ministers and policymakers on carbon reduction targets, climate adaptation, and financing. With an impressive level of attendance the event engaged NGOs, government officials, media representatives, academics and industry professionals. Additionally, apart from key pillars of discussion, COP29 served as a platform for hundreds of side events focused on clean energy, carbon markets, sustainable finance, and nature-based solutions. The COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company (AOC) ensured that the event organization is fully aligned with UNFCCC Code of Conduct, emphasizing the key principles of carbon neutrality, accessibility, and inclusivity in all aspects of the event.

COP29 presidency initiatives and the Troika

The COP29 Presidency introduced a series of global initiatives under its Action Agenda, aiming to accelerate climate action, strengthen engagement with non-party stakeholders and advance COP29's overarching vision of enhancing ambition and enabling action. In shaping these initiatives, the Presidency worked closely with the United Nations Global Task Force, engaging both Parties and non-party stakeholders. This collaborative and inclusive approach remained central to the ongoing refinement and execution of the initiatives.

Recognizing the urgent need for stronger climate action and gaps revealed by the first Global Stocktake under the UAE Consensus, the COP Presidencies Troika – the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil, representing COP28, COP29 and COP30, respectively – was established. This initiative, known as the Roadmap to Mission 1.5, was designed to reinforce global cooperation, create an environment conducive to ambitious policy commitments and facilitate the next cycle of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025.

Through the Troika, the three Presidencies aimed to ensure a seamless transition between COP conferences, bridging the outcomes of COP28 in Dubai to COP29 in Baku in 2024 and

then to COP30 in Belém in 2025. This partnership focused on transforming negotiated agreements into practical action, driving real-world implementation through joint initiatives and coordinated strategies across all key areas of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the Troika sought to improve the alignment and efficiency of existing mechanisms within and beyond the UNFCCC framework by establishing a common platform for climate action. A core priority involved advocating for the submission of 1.5°C-aligned NDCs by early 2025.



Sustainability framework: The seven commitments of COP29

COP29 AOC integrated UNFCCC requirements and UN SDGs in the development of its commitments, ensuring alignment with ethical standards and contributing to global sustainability objectives. The event primarily supported multiple SDGs, expanding its impact beyond seven key areas by integrating sustainability across several dimensions.

The commitments ensured that sustainability remained central throughout the event’s planning and implementation, from the initial design phase to execution. By addressing climate action, inclusivity, transparency, and innovation, COP29 introduced several first-time sustainability initiatives for Azerbaijan, setting a foundation for long-term positive change.

Contribution of COP29 commitments to Various SDGs:

13

CLIMATE ACTION



Carbon
Neutrality

Implementing strict carbon reduction measures, prioritizing renewable energy and offsetting residual emissions.

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Promotion of Sustainable Practices

Reducing single-use plastics, promoting sustainable transport and adopting eco-friendly procurement.

5

GENDER EQUALITY



10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Accessibility & Inclusivity

Ensuring accessibility for all including youth, women and under-represented communities.

16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Transparency & Accountability

Ensuring transparency through monitoring, data-driven decisions and ISO-aligned management.

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Legacy & Continuity

Investing in green infrastructure, supporting sustainability projects and fostering capacity-building.

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Safety for all

Implementing high-level safety measures and prioritizing health and well-being.

17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Collaboration & Partnerships

Prioritizing collaboration among governments the private sector, international organizations and NGOs.

Key sustainability considerations and compliance with the ISO 20121:2024 standard

To align with global sustainability principles, all operations were designed in full adherence to the ISO 20121:2024 standard for sustainable event management, ensuring minimal environmental impact while maximizing positive social and economic contributions. The Sustainability Policy, KPIs and targets were developed in conformity with the standard requirements around economic, social and environmental factors, as a guidance for successful event delivery.

From emissions measurement to building the event legacy for local communities, COP29 signified the sustainability embedded in planning and executing the events of such large scale. Specific KPIs, targets and action plans were developed for each of the guiding principles, helping to track the progress and resolve inconsistencies.

The event was organized with exemplary quality, surpassing the requirements set forth by the UNFCCC, establishing a new benchmark not only for Azerbaijan but also for the broader region.

The event served as a platform to advance Azerbaijan's green transition and decarbonization efforts. Initiatives such as green energy use, sustainable waste management, and capacity-building reflected the country's dedication to sustainable development and the Operating Company's commitment to aligning the event with leading sustainability practices. The platform served ample opportunities for new collaboration and cooperation agreements.

A dedicated sustainability team ensured compliance with international best practices, tracking the progress on event objectives and monitoring key metrics on emissions, energy consumption and waste reduction. The team effort was instrumental across all directions, particularly, in preparation for third-party evaluations and ISO certification achievement.



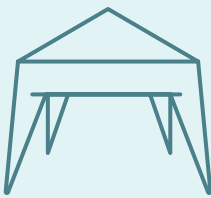
Venues and infrastructure: Baku Stadium

As the largest stadium in Baku with capacity for accommodating large-scale events, exhibitions and public engagement activities, the Baku Stadium was chosen as the main event venue. The stadium area was divided into several sectors, constituting of the main stadium and temporary structures forming the total area of the Blue Zone and the Green Zone. Both zones were designed in alignment with pivotal accessibility and sustainability considerations, incorporating low-energy LED lighting, energy-efficient materials and climate-friendly logistics to minimize the environmental footprint of the event.



Blue Zone

The Blue Zone, managed by UNFCCC, was a secured area dedicated to the official negotiations, including the World Climate Action Summit and intergovernmental discussions. The zone featured 39 pedestrian checkpoints, 35 registration desks, and 132 delegation offices, as well as numerous catering facilities. Access was restricted to official delegates, government representatives, and accredited organizations involved in policy negotiations, while country pavilions provided spaces for delegations to showcase national climate commitments, initiatives and research.



155 country pavilions



112 000 m² temporary venue area

Green Zone

The Green Zone was a fully temporary structure, operated by Azerbaijan. It was open to the public, including businesses, youth groups, academia, and NGOs. It served as a dynamic platform for exhibitions, innovation showcases and interactive sessions, fostering broader participation in climate action.

The Green Zone also provided an interactive forum called “The Extreme Hangout” for various participants to articulate their views. The hub created a dynamic space for hosting sessions, engaging in discussions, panels and demonstrations showcasing both current innovations and potential solutions for combatting climate change. Various workshops and forums enabled stakeholders from multiple sectors to share insights.

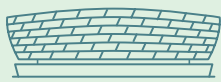


300+ public events

56 exhibitions



37 000 m² temporary venue area



Establishing the COP29 information centre – a public engagement hub

In preparation for COP29, Azerbaijan launched the COP29 Information Centre on Baku's seafront promenade with the support of the Seaside Boulevard Management. Designed as a key public engagement platform, the Centre provided visitors with interactive and educational resources on climate change, sustainability, and global climate action. Since its launch, the Centre has hosted more than 5,000 visitors and over 35 events, serving as a hub for awareness and dialogue on pressing climate issues.

The official opening on 27 June 2024 was attended by high-level officials, including COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev and Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. During the event, officials were introduced to the Centre's activities, which included:

- Thematic zones offering insights into climate change and COP29's objectives;
- A COP history zone, educating visitors on the evolution of global climate conferences;
- A virtual travel zone, using VR technology to explore different climate landscapes;



- An electronic donation platform, allowing visitors to contribute to tree-planting efforts;
- A carbon footprint calculator, helping visitors assess their environmental impact and take action.

Promoting inclusivity and sustainability through interactive events

Beyond its exhibits, the COP29 Information Centre hosted a series of interactive events aimed at expanding the public engagement with climate action. Among the most impactful were sessions held on 17–18 August 2024, focusing on climate education for children and discussions on inclusivity in environmental efforts.

Day 1

“Organic School” workshops for children

Hands-on activities introduced young participants to sustainability concepts;

Theatrical performances like “Plastic and Fish” and “Questions for the Tree” highlighted environmental issues;

Sessions emphasized individual responsibility in addressing climate challenges.

Day 2

Expert panel on inclusivity in climate action

Experts from various fields explored the intersection of climate, health, education and social equity;

Discussions addressed the impact of climate change on individuals with special needs and the importance of inclusive climate policies.

The event illustrated the intersection of climate action and inclusivity, emphasizing the significance of the integration of marginalized communities into environmental decision making and action. By raising awareness around climate justice, it highlighted the necessity of collaborative efforts for tackling sustainability challenges.

03. Azerbaijan's climate commitments



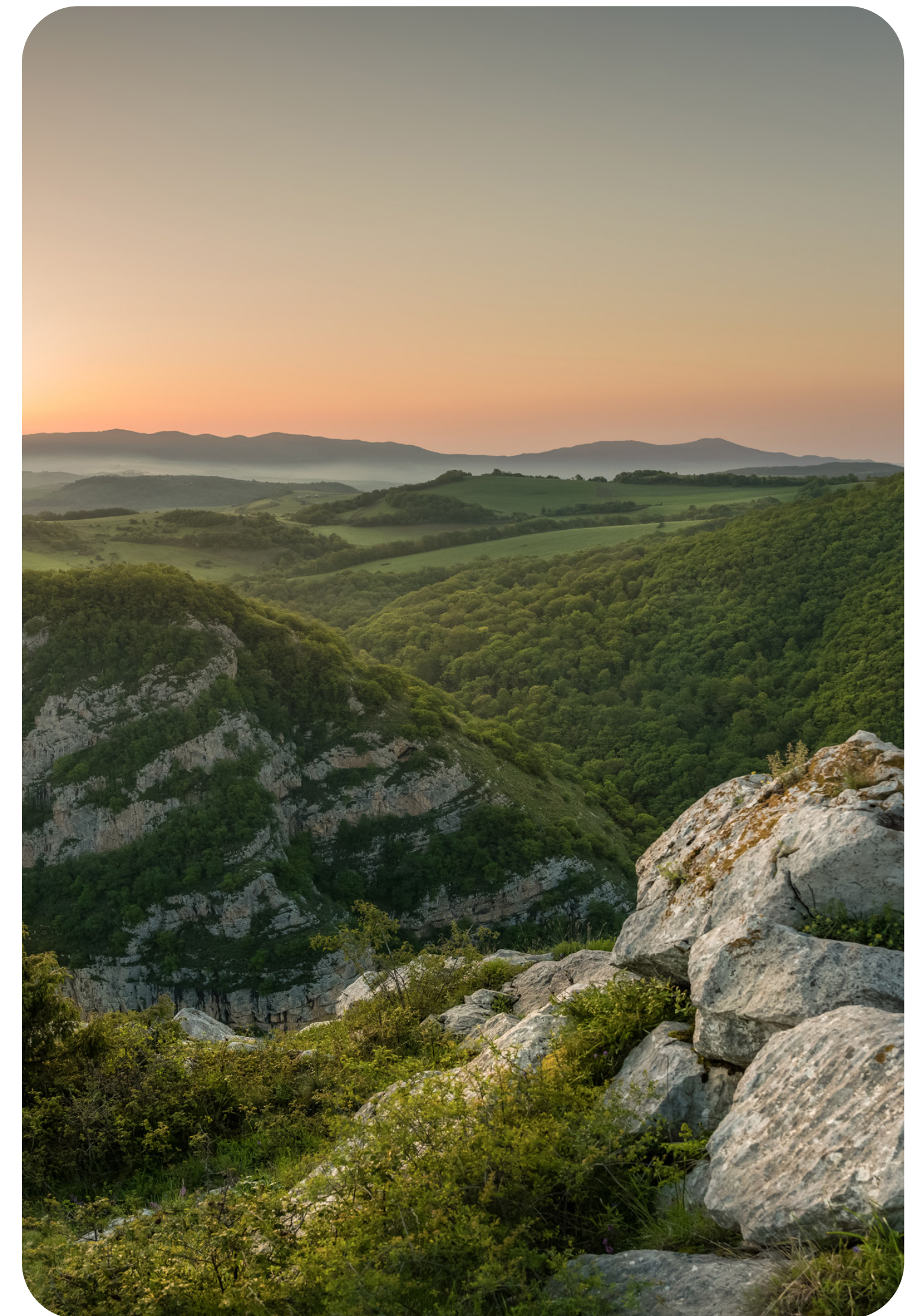
3. Azerbaijan's climate commitments

As the host of COP29, Azerbaijan is not only facilitating global climate discussions but also demonstrating its own pledge to climate action. Since as early as 1990, Azerbaijan has consistently showcased its climate commitments focusing on the management of GHG emissions, climate change mitigation, and the transition to green energy in close cooperation with diverse stakeholders.

After joining the UNFCCC as a non-Annex I Party, in its efforts combatting the climate change, Azerbaijan signed the Kyoto Protocol and ratified the Paris Agreement. To reaffirm its commitment to reducing emissions, Azerbaijan submitted and updated its Nationally Determined Contributions to UNFCCC, while also recently releasing its first Biennial Transparency Report. In its revised NDC, Azerbaijan commits to a 40% reduction in emissions by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, conditional on international support. This commitment spans multiple sectors, such as energy, agriculture, waste management and land use.

Transitioning to green energy is currently among Azerbaijan's top climate-related national priorities, aiming to achieve 30% renewable energy capacity by 2030 through enhancing its

solar, wind and hydropower potential. The government is establishing specialized green energy zones, particularly in the Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur regions, to serve as hubs for renewable energy production and sustainable development. Azerbaijan is fostering collaboration between the government and private sector as well as international energy firms to attract investment in large-scale renewable energy projects. The Garadagh Solar PV Plant of 230 MW, the largest in the Caucasus operating since 2023, is one of the key initiatives with significant producing capacity. The Khizi-Absheron Wind Power Plant is another massive project with Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power, aimed to generate over 1 billion kWh of electricity per year. Hydropower development is another important dimension of renewable energy projects, given the country's capacity and expertise established through the Mingachevir HPP since mid-20th century. Green hydrogen development plans are being continued in other regions of Azerbaijan and are largely supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with infrastructural upgrades planned for green hydrogen and ammonia exports.



04. COP29 sustainability commitments

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4. COP29 sustainability commitments

At COP29 Azerbaijan, transparency, stewardship, integrity, and inclusivity were prioritized as core principles guiding every aspect of the event's delivery. These values were embedded throughout the planning and execution phases, ensuring alignment with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Code of Conduct.

COP29 adopted a robust set of sustainability commitments aimed at integrating environmental, social, and climate-conscious practices into all aspects of the conference, serving as a blueprint for embedding sustainability into operations, fostering innovation, and setting a benchmark for future COP events.

Carbon neutrality

Achieve carbon neutrality by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through renewable energy use, energy efficiency and offsetting unavoidable emissions.



Accessibility and inclusivity

Ensure the event is accessible to all, regardless of physical abilities or socio-economic backgrounds with a focus on youth, women and underrepresented groups.



Transparency and accountability

Maintain transparency in decision-making and accountability for commitments with regular reporting on progress toward sustainability goals.



Legacy and continuity

Leave a positive legacy by supporting local sustainability initiatives and investing in long-term infrastructure and capacity building for ongoing climate action.



Promotion of sustainable practices

Encourage sustainable practices such as reducing single-use plastics, promoting sustainable transportation and adopting environmentally friendly procurement.



Collaboration and partnerships

Foster partnerships with governments, organizations, civil society and the private sector to address climate change and advance sustainability.



Safety for all

Ensure all COP29 event activities prioritize health, safety and well-being.



4.1 Carbon neutrality



COP29 was committed to achieving carbon neutrality by implementing a three-pronged approach: accurately measuring its carbon footprint, implementing comprehensive emission reduction initiatives, and compensating for unavoidable emissions through verified carbon offset projects.



Measure

A robust system has been established to accurately measure the event’s carbon footprint across all scopes (Scope 1, 2 and 3), ensuring a transparent assessment of direct and indirect emissions.



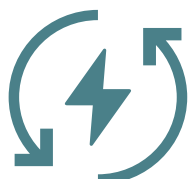
Reduce

A wide range of emission reduction measures has been integrated into all operational aspects, including renewable energy, green mobility, sustainable procurement and responsible waste management.



Compensate

Recognizing that some emissions are unavoidable COP29 has developed a credible offsetting strategy, sourcing high-quality, internationally recognized carbon credits from verified projects that deliver real, measurable and additional climate benefits.



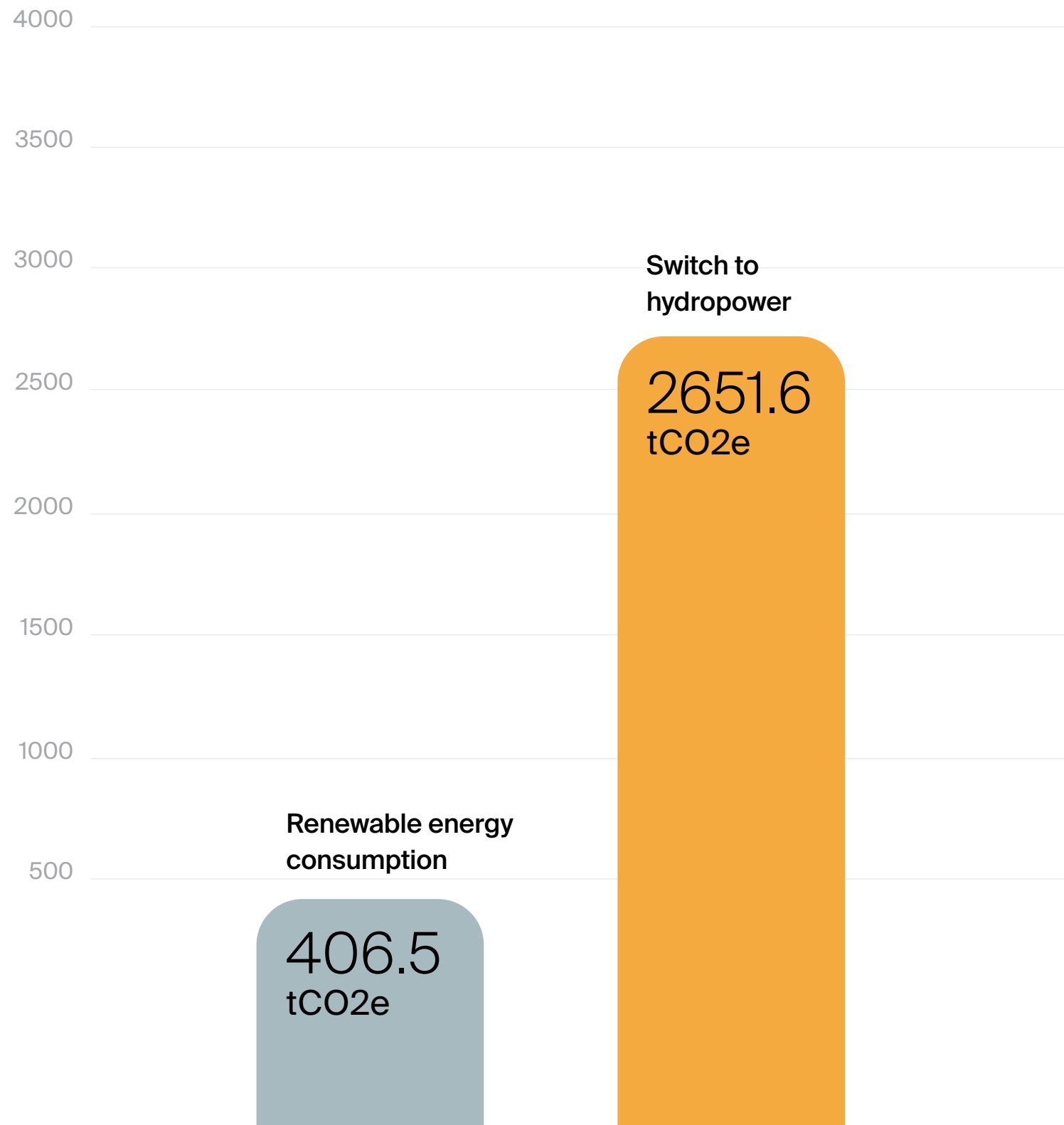
Energy and emission reduction strategies

A critical component of COP29’s sustainability plan was minimizing emissions from energy consumption and event operations. Recognizing that large-scale events typically rely on energy-intensive infrastructure, COP29 introduced a multi-layered approach to emission reduction across electricity, transport, catering and operational logistics. To integrate renewable energy, COP29 partnered with a local Azerbaijani hydropower organization through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to secure zero-emission electricity from hydro sources throughout the event period (November 11–22), reducing reliance on conventional grid electricity and ensuring that event operations were powered by a sustainable and local energy source.

The fixed stadium structure sourced its electricity through the grid. Given that temporary structures within the Blue and Green Zones required continuous power and were dependent on generators throughout the event, including the setup and pack-down period, COP29 took significant steps to reduce emissions from these generators by replacing traditional diesel with Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO), a biofuel with significantly lower carbon intensity. Over 1,000,000 liters of HVO were procured and used to power event operations, leading to reduction of 2,651t CO2e compared to baseline. Further enhancing energy efficiency, COP29 installed LED

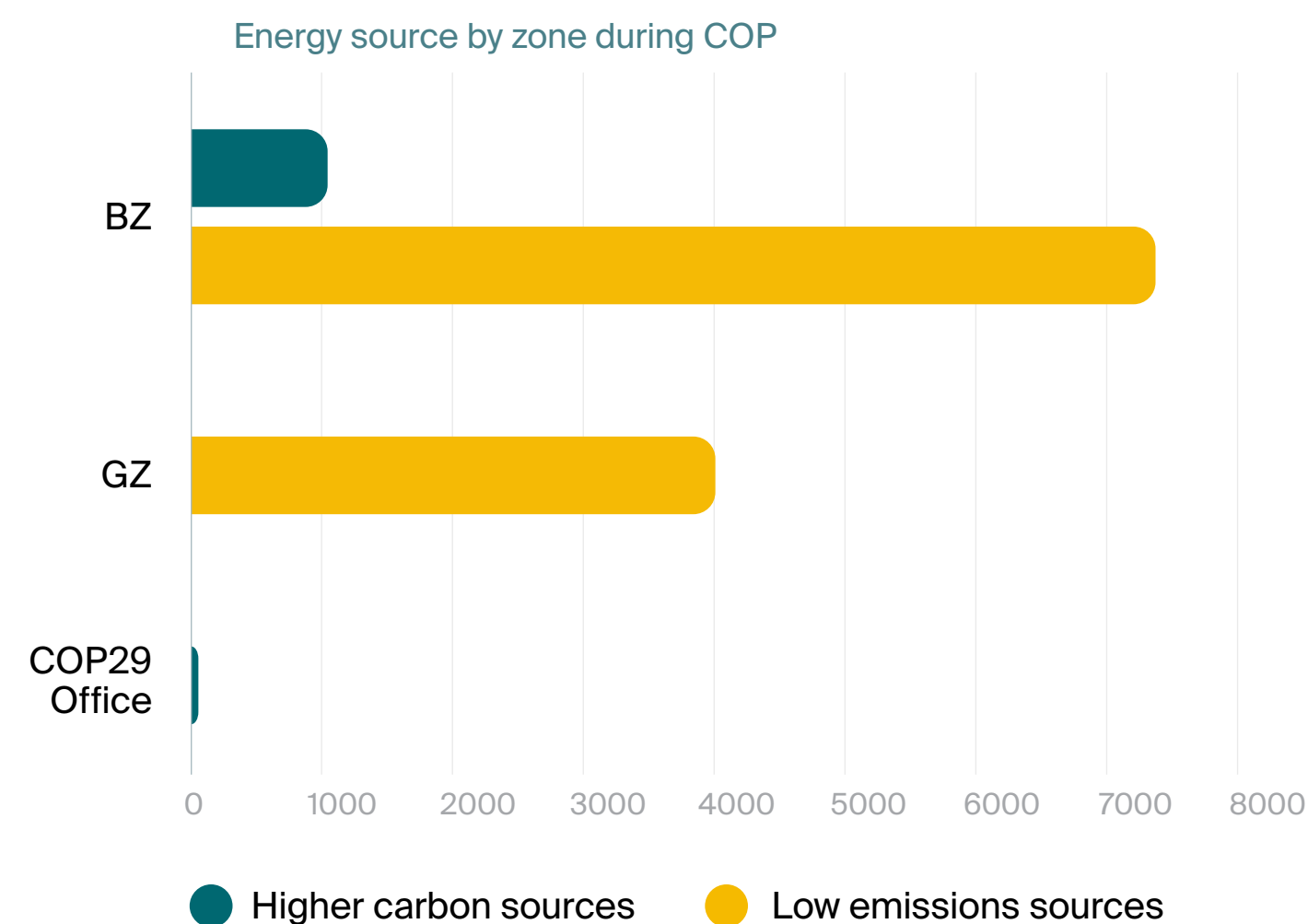
lighting systems across all event venues and launched a dedicated awareness campaign to educate staff, vendors and participants on energy-saving practices, ensuring that all stakeholders contributed to sustainability goals. Permanent Blue Zone structures, including the Olympic Stadium and Media Center, utilized electricity from the national grid, supplied on a contractual agreement with a hydropower producer, further reducing the event’s carbon footprint.

Figure 1. Total emissions reduction from venues



An advanced energy management system was also implemented to monitor and optimize overall energy consumption, reducing unnecessary power usage and improving efficiency. In total, 3,058 tCO₂e of emissions reductions came from renewable electricity consumption and HVO consumption, replacing diesel.

Figure 2. Energy source by zone during COP29



Energy consumption at the venues was primarily sourced from low-emission energy. Hosting an extensive number of participants and covering a wider area, Blue Zone was powered by a mix energy supply, while Green Zone relied 100% on low-emission energy, exceeding 4 million kWh

energy generated from HVO. The COP29 office had minimal recorded consumption and was powered by electricity generated from grid.

Green energy powered venue

The initiative was carried out in partnership with SOCAR Green, COP29's Energy Transition Partner, which ensured the availability of sufficient HVO to power the venue. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Green Energy Power Plant LLC under Azerenerji OJSC, key electrical power supplier in Azerbaijan, securing the use of 100% renewable energy at the Baku Stadium during the conference. The agreement involved collaboration with key stakeholders such as Azerishig OJSC and Stadium Operating Company LLC, ensuring a coordinated approach to green energy supply.



Solar arch

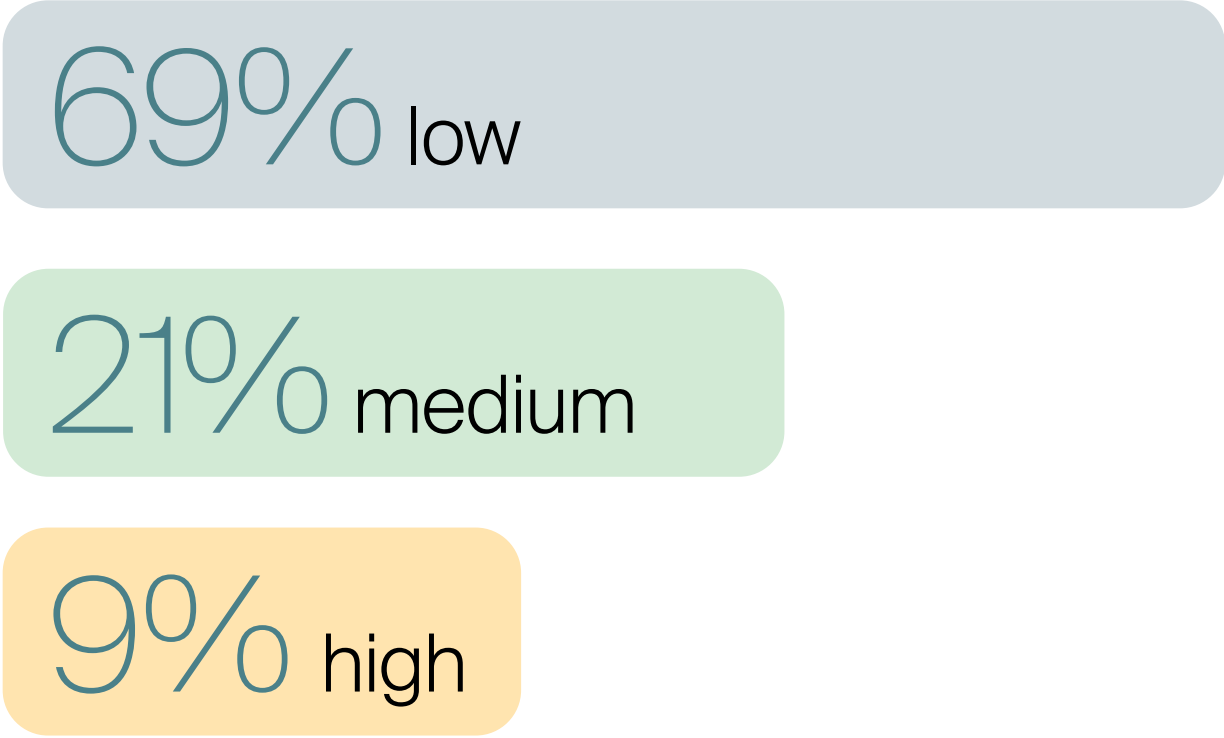
Moreover, the decorative solar arch located at the entrance of the COP29 reflected a plausible example of a sustainable design for the event, using CdTe thin-film solar cells to generate clean energy for its own illumination.



In addition to these measures, COP29 emphasized sustainable catering and procurement practices, prioritizing locally sourced, plantbased ingredients to minimize the carbon footprint of catering services.

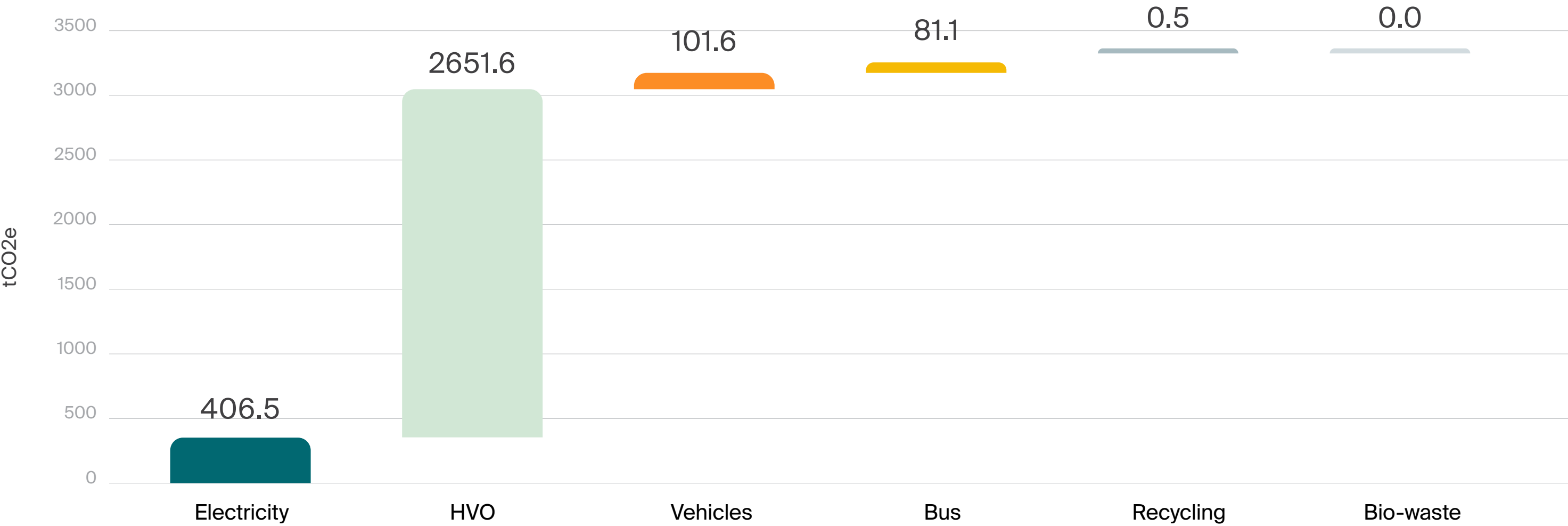
By working collaboratively with suppliers, COP29 prioritized the reduction of high-emission food options, placing strong emphasis on seasonal and locally sourced produce to further reduce emissions associated with food transportation. Approximately 69% of the meals provided during the event had low emission intensity due to local sourcing, plantbased options, ground transportation and reduced packaging. Overall, catering services provided at both venues during the event accounted only for 0.2% of total emissions. Through its comprehensive strategy, COP29 was successful to reduce its operational carbon footprint, making it one of the most energy-efficient COP events to date.

Figure 3. Proportion of meals by emissions intensity



GHG emission measurement

Figure 4. Total COP29 emissions reductions by reduction actions.



COP29 successfully implemented a range of impactful emission reduction measures, showcasing a strong commitment to sustainability. The transition to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel resulted in a substantial decrease in carbon emissions, significantly enhancing the event’s environmental performance. Energy efficiency improvements in electricity consumption further contributed to emission reductions, reinforcing COP29’s dedication to sustainable energy solutions. Additionally, the promotion of low-emission transport, including increased reliance on eco-friendly vehicles and public transportation, helped lower the carbon footprint of event-related travel. Waste management

initiatives, such as recycling and bio-waste strategies, complemented these efforts by promoting circular economy principles.

To meet the UNFCCC requirements for delivering a carbon-neutral event, COP29 conducted a detailed assessment and calculation of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The COP29 emissions footprint has been developed and calculated using guidance from the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, which provides a comprehensive global framework for measuring and managing greenhouse gas emissions.

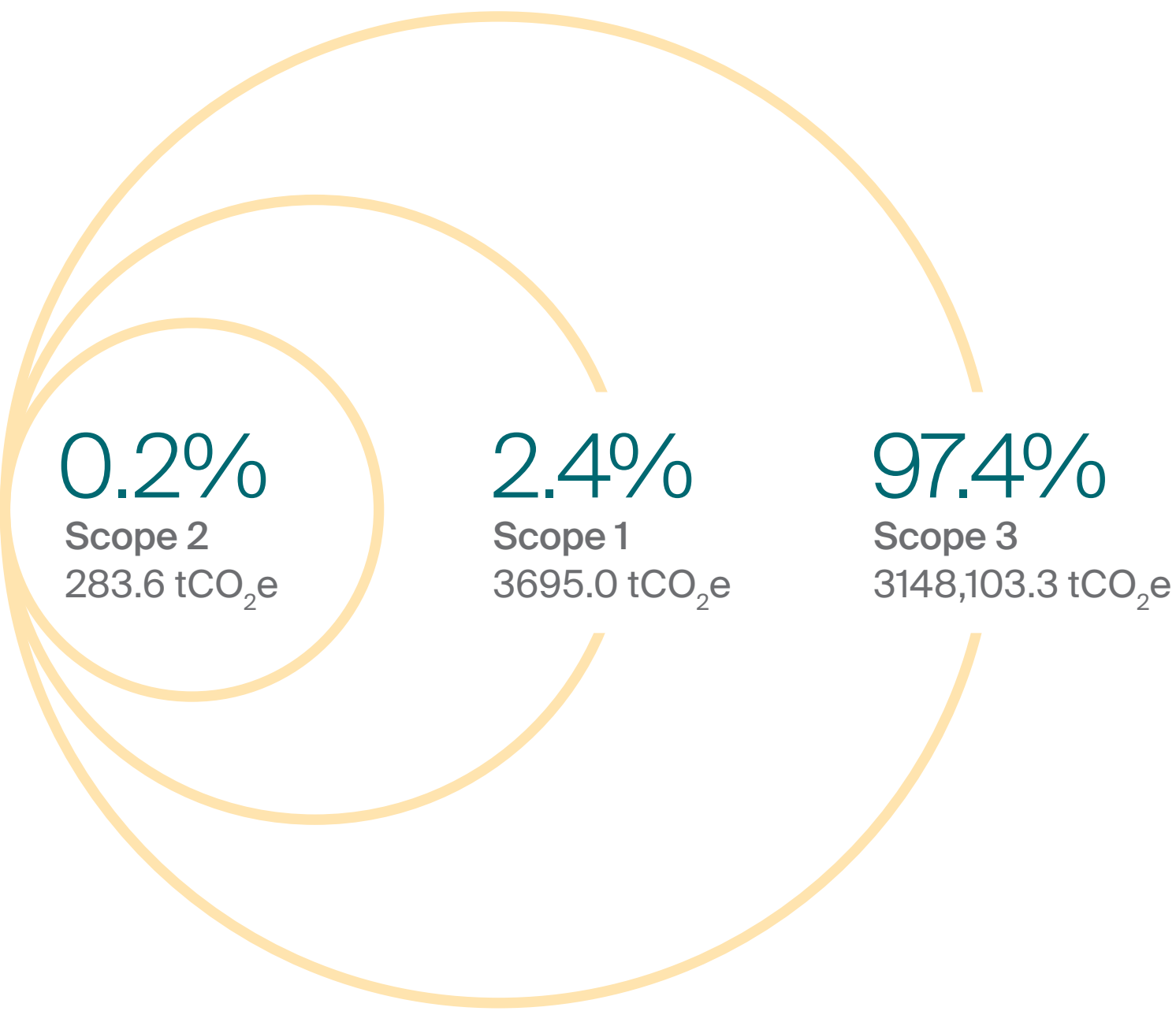
Foreword	Overview of COP29	Azerbaijan's Climate Commitments	Sustainability Commitments	Lessons Learned
In addition, the measurement of COP29's emissions aimed to support several key pillars of COP29's Sustainability Policy by: • Demonstrating the effectiveness of emission reduction initiatives undertaken by the COP29 Organisation; • Enhancing the transparency and accountability of the event through the comprehensive reporting of COP29's emissions. COP29 partnered with a third-party consultant to conduct a comprehensive carbon footprint analysis. A bespoke and tailor-made methodology was developed to ensure that all event-specific activities were accounted for. The data collection process was a multi-stage effort that involved engagement with each of the parties responsible for activity data related to the in-scope emissions sources. Engagement with the relevant stakeholders was considered crucial for successfully identifying, collecting, and verifying the necessary data to calculate an accurate footprint for COP29, which was realized with extensive inputs from: • Vendors and suppliers (catering, logistics, equipment, accommodation providers); • Logistics and transportation providers; • Venue management teams; • Multiple internal COP29 departments (procurement, operations, sustainability, and energy management)	The data collection process was organized in four key steps, consisting of establishing data collection boundaries and emission sources, distribution of data collection forms, follow-up meetings with stakeholders, collation and analysis of the data to be used in calculations. Defining data collection boundaries helped to clarify the responsibility and timeline for data provision, as well as the methods for capturing the highest quality data. When establishing the boundary for COP29's emissions footprint, the scoping and materiality guidance found in the PAS 2060 standard was used so as to include all activities integral to the intended outcome of that event. Accordingly, clear instructions were provided to ensure clarity and consistency in data provision, tailored to the expectations of each stakeholder. After the conclusion of COP29, follow-up meetings were conducted with stakeholders to support the collection of any outstanding data and to gain clarity on issues identified in the data that had already been submitted. In general, the calculations covered all operational aspects, categorized under three emission scopes: Scope 1 Direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources owned or controlled by an organisation. This includes emissions from fuel combustion in company-owned vehicles, emissions from on-site energy production, and any other direct emissions resulting from operational activities; Scope 2 Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling consumed by the organisation; Scope 3 Encompasses all other indirect emissions that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions: ✓ Purchased goods and services; ✓ Upstream transportation and distribution; ✓ Waste generated in operations; ✓ Business travel; ✓ Downstream transportation and distribution By establishing this baseline and calculating actual emissions per relevant categories, COP29 was able to prioritize emission reduction efforts first before resorting to carbon offsetting, ensuring that the focus remained on actual reductions rather than compensatory measures. The carbon calculations were structured around a three-phase approach—pre-COP, during COP, and post-COP—facilitating a systematic measurement and comparison of the event's actual emissions and their environmental impacts. The total footprint of the COP29 event was calculated as 152,082 tons of CO2e. The biggest proportion of emissions			

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– almost 82% - was caused by air travel, considering the complexity of reducing emissions in this category and large number of attendees travelling from diverse continents. The effect was evident in three consecutive years of COP history, relative to the total number of attendees each year. The second largest source of emissions can be attributed to procurement and upstream transportation, consequently leading to the Scope 3 emissions accounting for the significant share of total emissions. Unlike previous COPs, COP29 relied entirely on temporary structures, requiring materials and equipment to be transported from abroad, which further increased emissions in this category.

In total, Scope 3 emissions accounted for 97.4% of the overall figure, as contributed by the services outsourced and materials procured in addition to air travel data. Scope 1 emissions were significantly lower, accounting for only 2.4% of the total COP emissions. This can be attributed to the efficient use of energy resources as well as the employment of HVOs for energy provision, as only an insignificant amount of non-renewable energy was utilized at the venues. Scope 2 emissions, caused by electricity consumption sourced from grids and renewable energy sources, made up only 0.2% for overall COP emissions and 0.1% for the Blue Zone.

Figure 5. Total COP29 footprint and emissions by scope



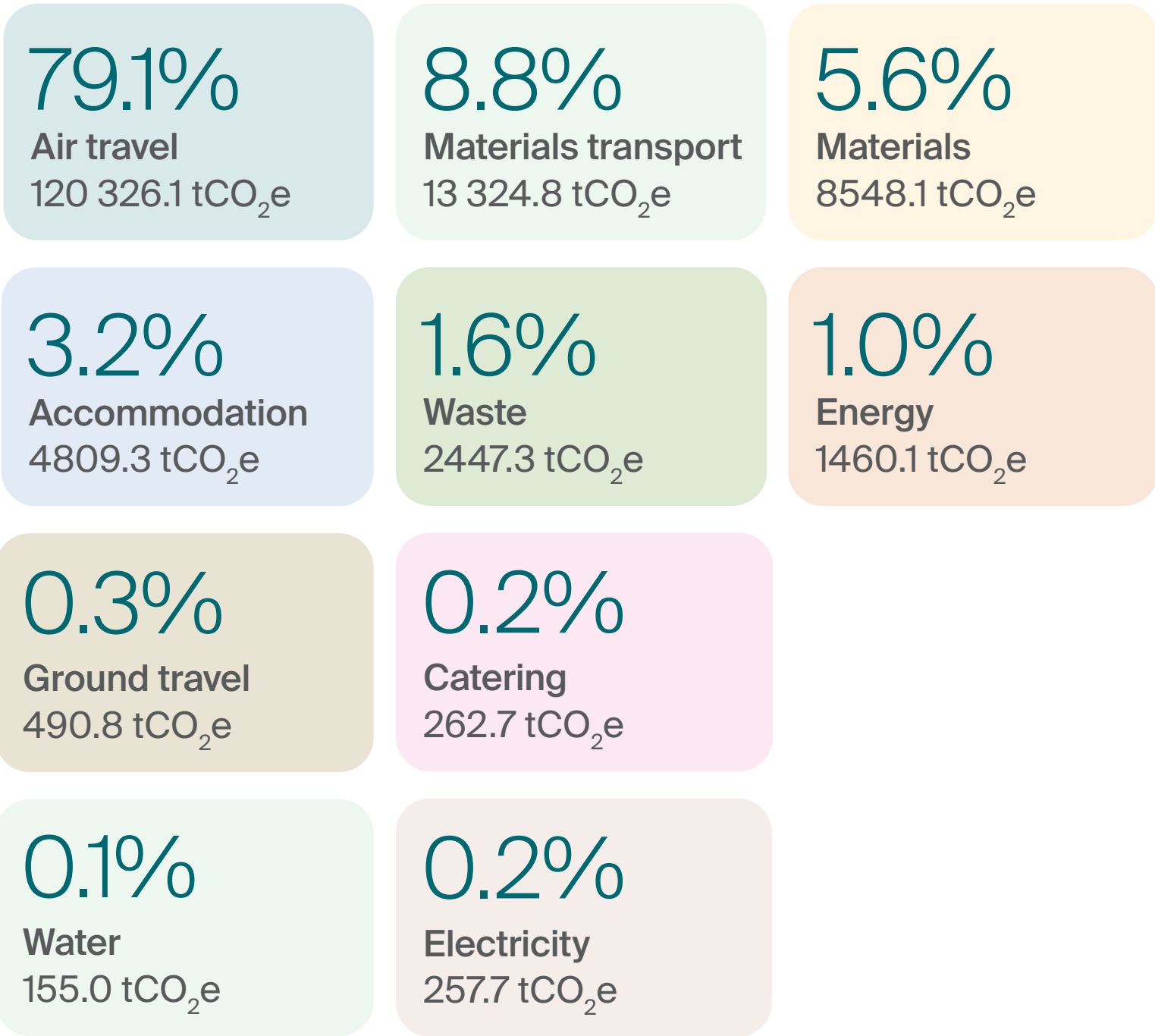
The largest contributor to emissions was air travel, accounting for 79.1% of total emissions (120,326.1 tCO₂e), which underscores the significant impact of international transportation on the event’s overall carbon footprint.

Other notable sources of emissions included materials transport (8.3%), materials usage (5.6%), and accommodation (3.2%), reflecting the resource-intensive nature of event logistics. Ground travel (0.3%), energy consumption (1.1%), and waste (1.6%) contributed relatively

smaller shares, demonstrating efforts to minimize local transportation and on-site emissions. Additionally, catering (0.2%), and water usage (0.1%) had minimal impact on the overall footprint.

The breakdown in Figure 6 provides insights into the key areas of emissions, emphasizing the importance of sustainable travel policies, efficient resource use, and responsible waste management in reducing the carbon footprint of large-scale international events like COP29.

Figure 6. Total COP29 Footprint





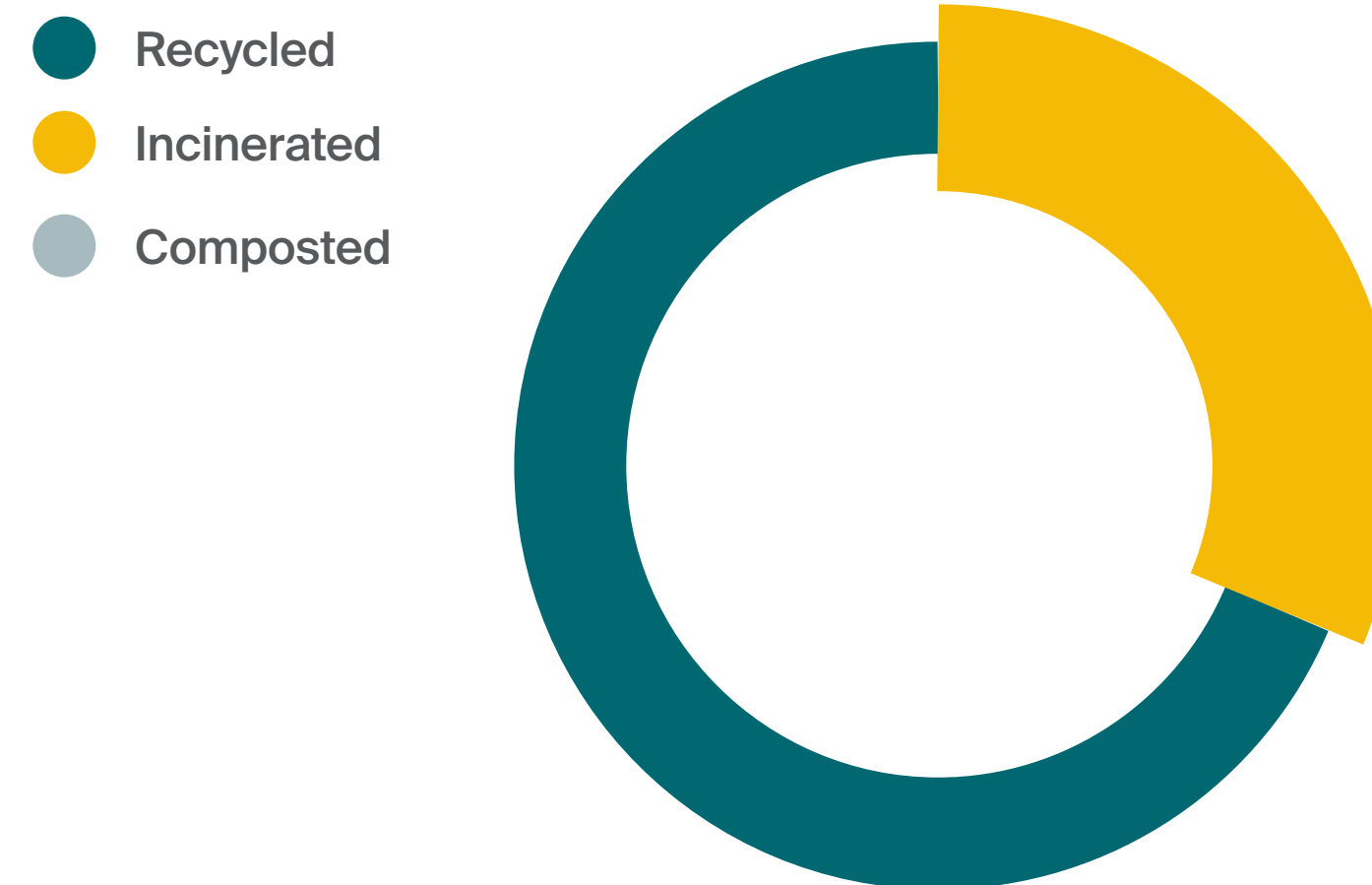
Waste management and emissions

Responsible waste management was a key aspect of minimizing the environmental impact of COP29. In alignment with carbon neutrality principles, a comprehensive waste management strategy was developed, incorporating strict waste collection and disposal guidelines alongside sustainable procurement practices. Three primary waste disposal methods were prioritized: composting, incineration, and recycling.

Wherever feasible, materials used for venue design and event organization were selected based on reusability and recyclability, reducing unnecessary waste. Recognizing the importance of behavioral change, education and awareness campaigns encouraged participants to minimize waste, use recycling stations and embrace sustainable practices throughout the event.



Figure 7. Proportion of waste disposal by method



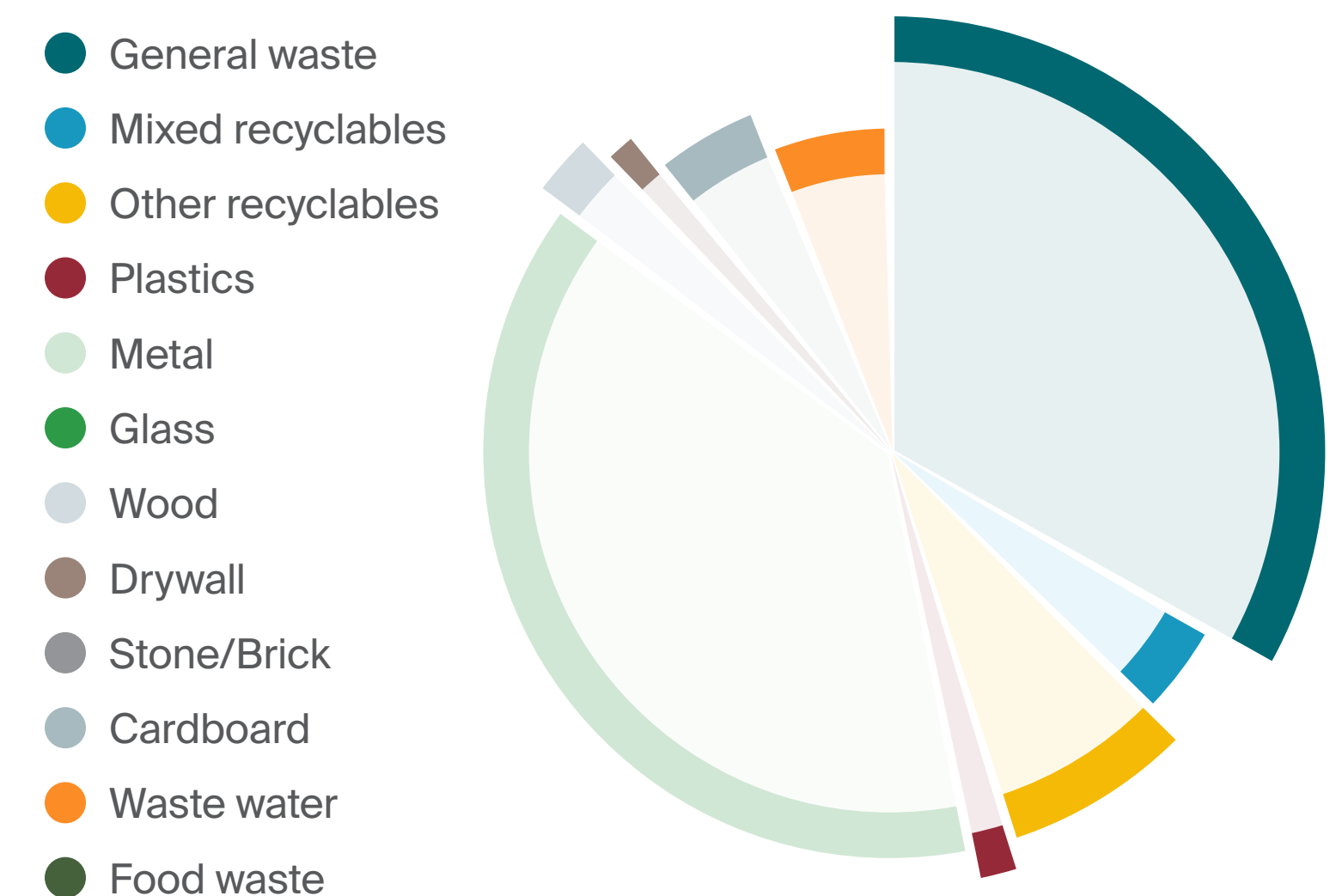
Based on the waste emissions breakdown in Figure 9, different waste types had varying impacts on total emissions. Metal waste, despite being fully recycled, accounted for 39% of emissions, making it the most significant contributor due to higher environmental footprint of metal recycling. The event achieved a 68% recycling rate, marking a new milestone in Azerbaijan's history for sustainable event management at this scale.

Additionally, COP29 invested in on-site composting machines, reducing emissions by 0.01 tCO₂e, a 10% reduction compared to incineration. The event also partnered

with a waste recovery center, further enhancing sustainable waste disposal efforts.

These initiatives, alongside responsible material procurement and efficient waste management strategies, played a crucial role in reducing COP29's overall waste-related carbon footprint while setting new sustainability benchmarks for future large-scale events.

Figure 8. Proportion of total waste emissions by emissions source





Procurement and emission reduction

Procurement was a significant part of COP29’s sustainability efforts. A Sustainable Procurement Policy was adopted to align all goods and services with environmental principles, emphasizing emission reductions across production, logistics, and supply chains. The policy promoted local, low-carbon, and circular economy solutions, while requiring suppliers to demonstrate strong environmental performance. These measures significantly reduced procurement-related emissions and supported a more responsible supply chain.

Sustainable sourcing and material selection

COP29 took significant steps to ensure that procurement decisions supported sustainability objectives. Several measures were introduced to reduce emissions and promote responsible material use:

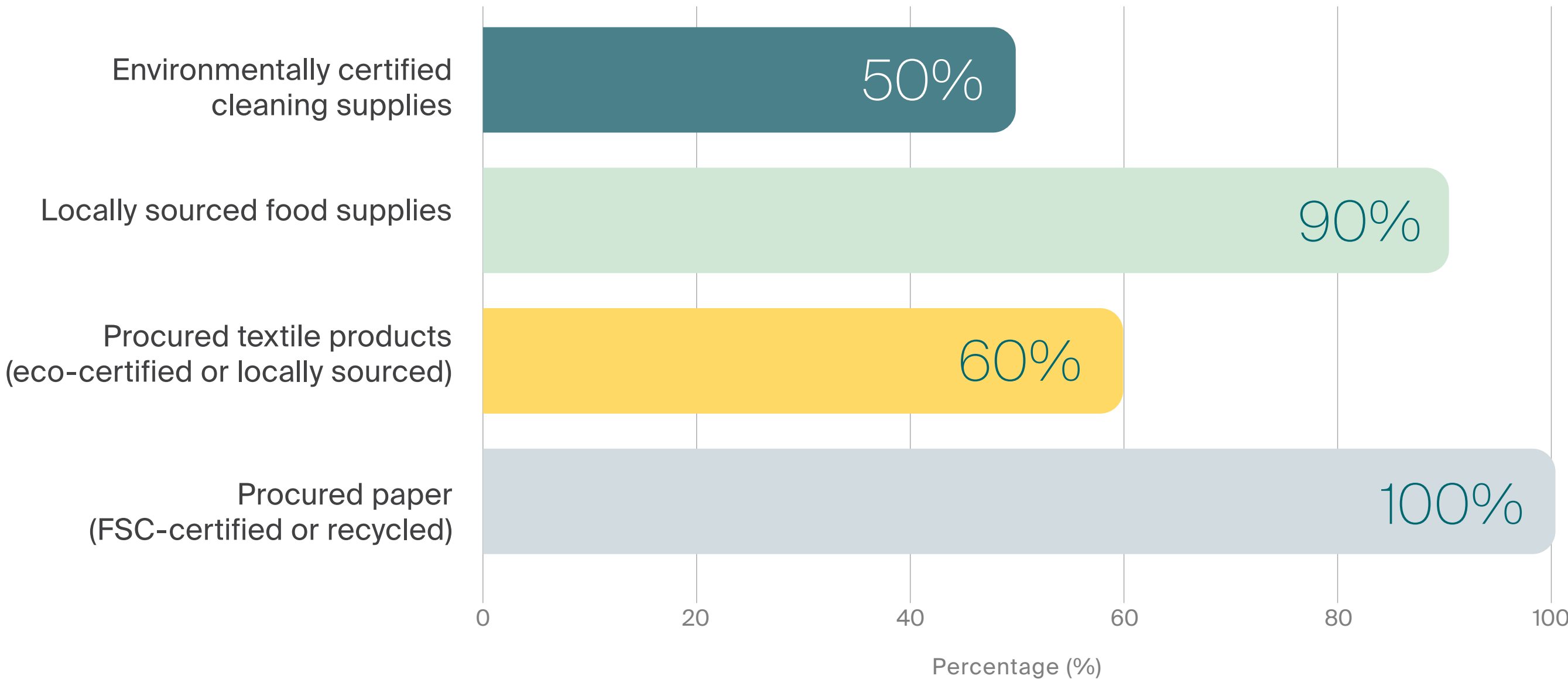
- **FSC-certified paper products and furniture:** All paper-based products and furniture used at COP29 were 100% FSC-certified, ensuring that materials were sourced from responsibly managed forests with minimal environmental impact.
- **Locally sourced food supplies:** More than 90% of food provided at COP29 was locally sourced, significantly

reducing emissions associated with food transportation and supply chains.

- **Eco-friendly textile products:** 60% of textiles used at the event, including staff uniforms, event decorations, and promotional fabrics, met eco-friendly standards, reducing emissions from the textile industry, which is traditionally carbon-intensive.

- **Recycled and reusable materials:** Temporary venue structures and event materials were designed for reuse and repurposing, minimizing waste and emissions from production.
- **Lower-carbon logistics:** COP29 worked closely with logistics providers to consolidate shipments and prioritize low-emission transport options, ensuring a reduction in supply chain-related emissions.

Figure 9. COP29 Sustainable Procurement Practices



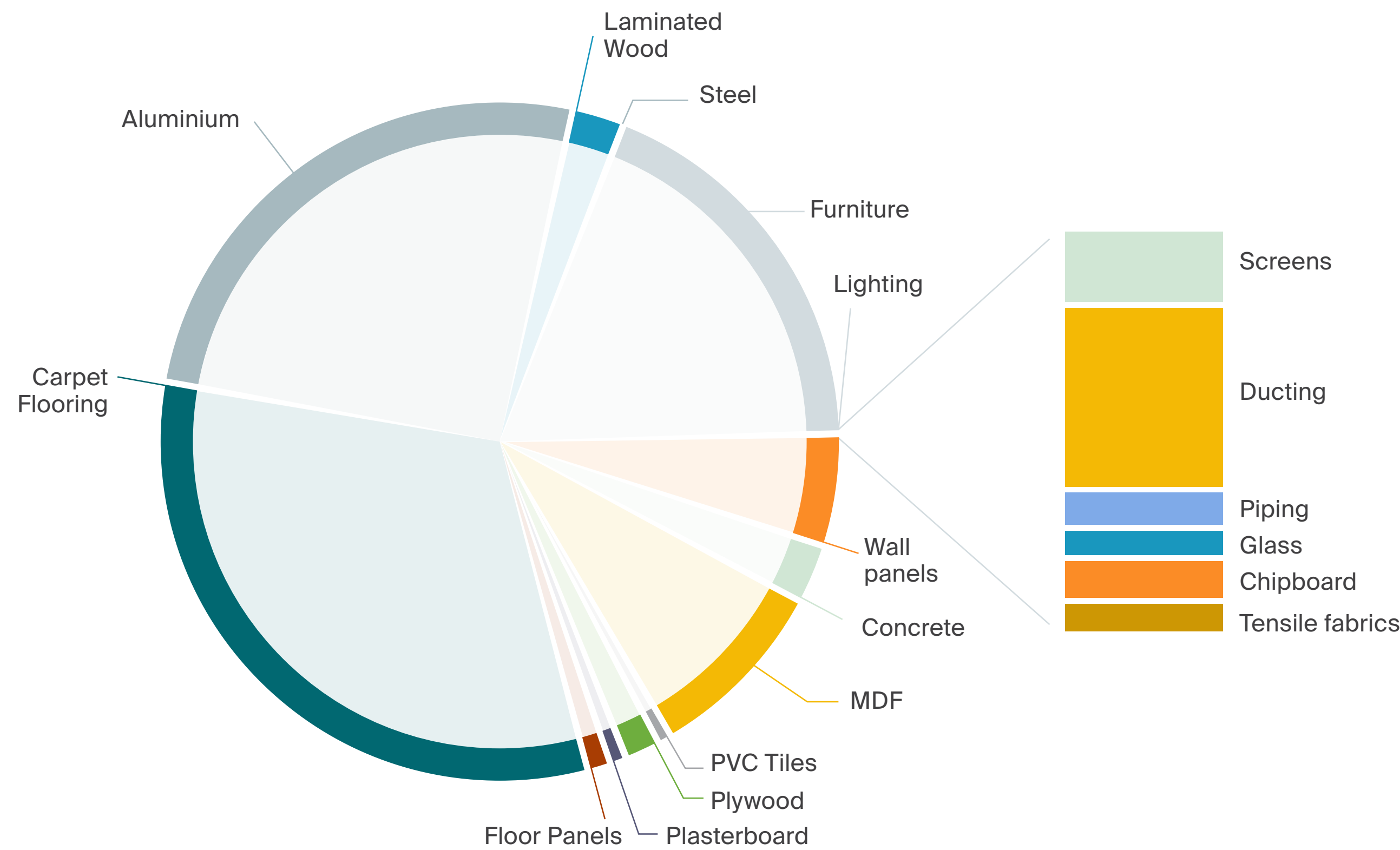
To further reduce the carbon footprint of procurement, COP29 introduced a series of sustainability measures aimed at ensuring environmentally responsible sourcing and supply chain management. A key focus was supplier engagement and training, with 100% of vendors and suppliers receiving guidance on COP29’s sustainable procurement criteria.

Additionally, large suppliers were required to adopt ISOcertified environmental management systems, ensuring that sustainability principles were integrated into their business operations. Event merchandise and materials were designed with a sustainability focus, resulting in an 80% reduction in printed content by replacing traditional materials with digital signage and communication channels..

Table 1. Total emissions from procurement

Emissions category	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	% of total procurement emissions
Materials	7 184.4	43.0%
Materials transport	9 531.0	57.0%
Total	16 715.5	

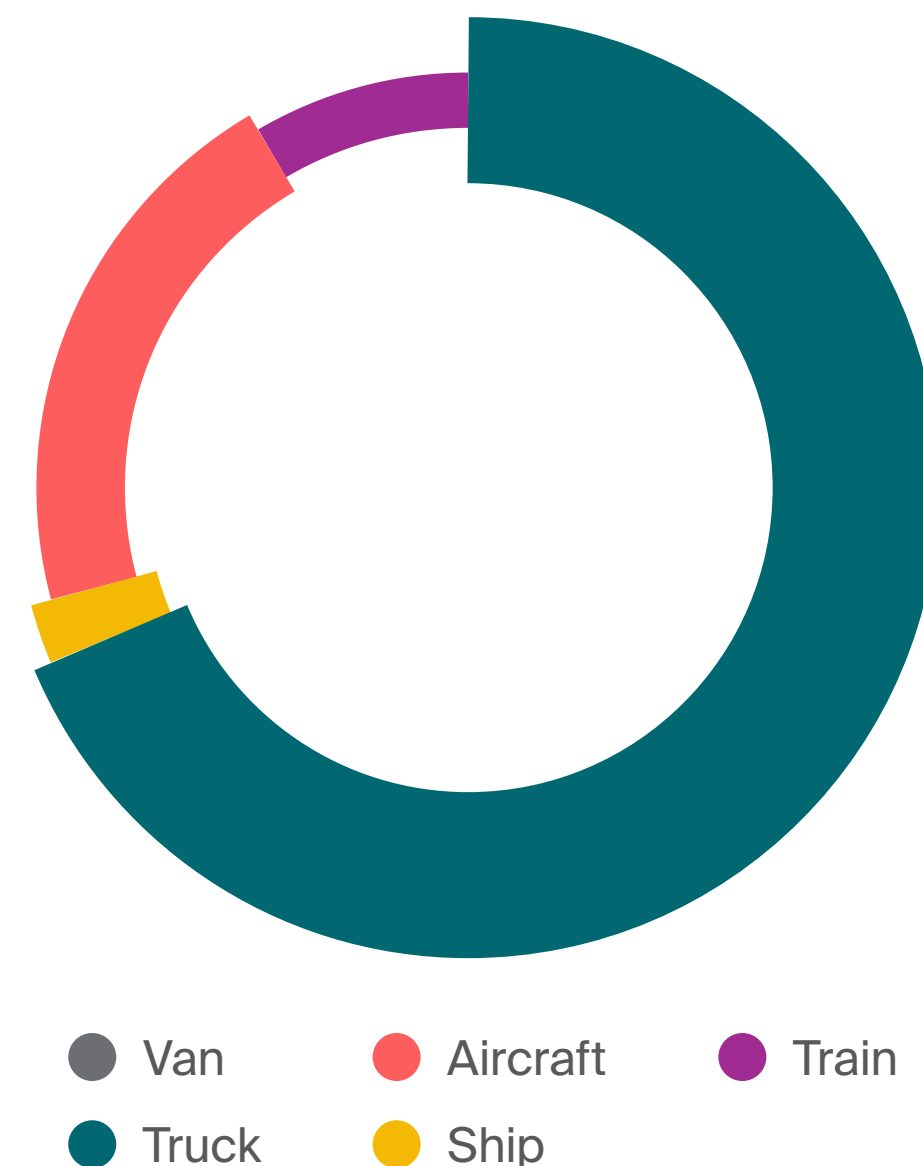
Figure 10. Total emissions from procurement by material



Materials procurement was a major driver of Scope 3 emissions, with carpet flooring (32%) and aluminium (26%) accounting for the highest share. Another significant contributor was furniture purchases, which were necessary due to limited leasing options for event-scale use. However, COP29 took proactive steps to reduce the environmental

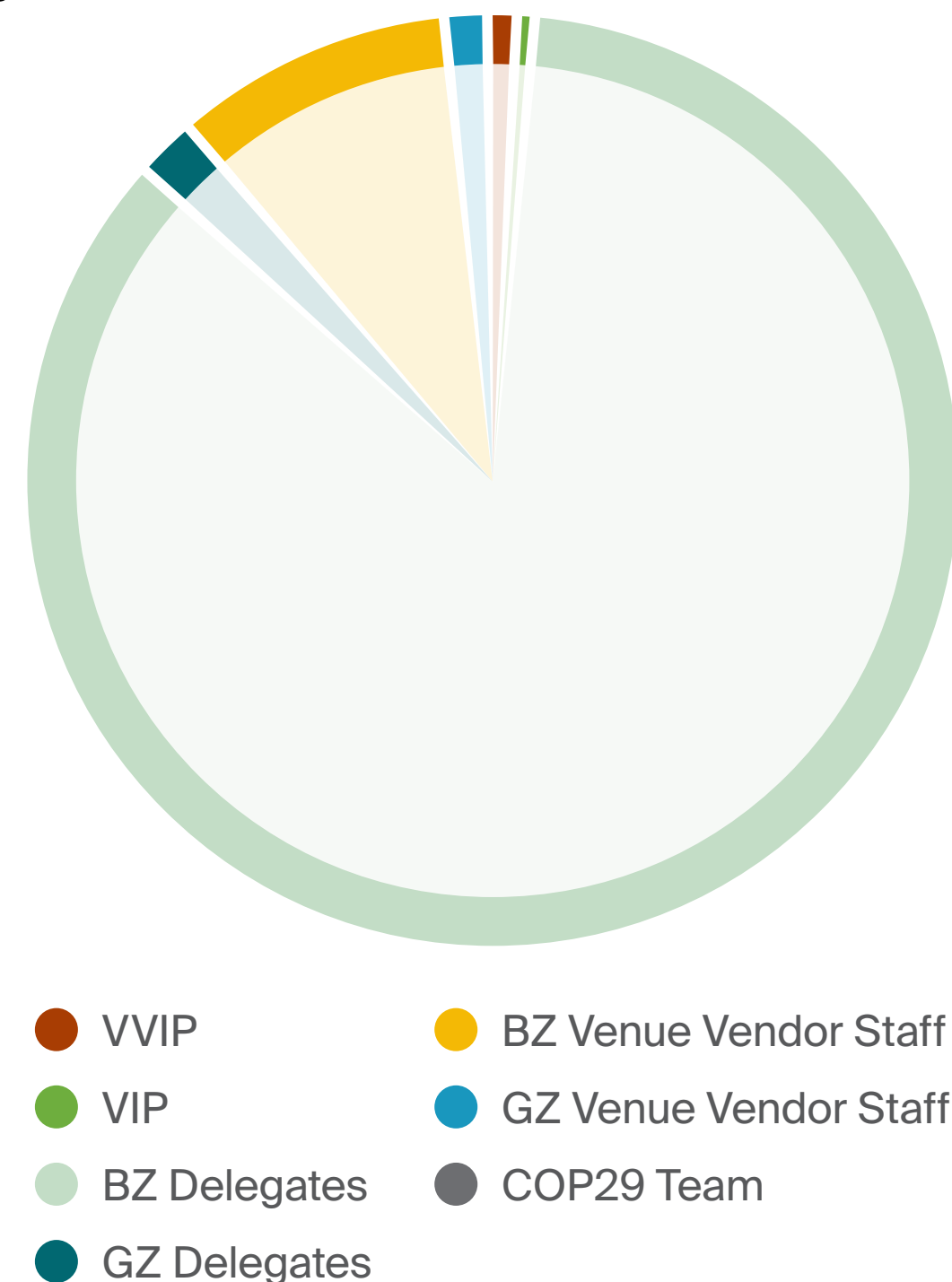
impact of these materials by ensuring that, wherever possible, items were reused, repurposed, or recycled after the event. Furniture and other reusable materials were distributed to public institutions, reinforcing COP29’s commitment to resource efficiency and circular economy principles.

Figure 11. Proportion of total procurement transport emissions by emission scope



implemented measures to mitigate its international travel footprint. Attendees were encouraged to opt for direct flights to minimize fuel consumption, select airlines with strong sustainability commitments, and explore alternative travel options where feasible. These initiatives helped reduce the carbon impact of international travel, but due to the scale of the event, emissions from global transportation remained a key consideration.

Figure 12. Proportion of total ground travel emissions by group



Local transportation

On a local level, COP29 implemented a sustainable mobility plan to provide attendees with low-emission transport alternatives. Free metro services were made available, significantly reducing reliance on private vehicles, while strategically located bus stops improved access to public transport across the city. Additionally, COP29 introduced electric and hybrid vehicles to replace fossil fuel-powered transport, including 160 electric buses and 153 hybrid taxis. Electric vehicles were also integrated into VVIP motorcades, eliminating the need for petrol-powered sedans and further contributing to COP29's commitment to sustainable mobility. These initiatives significantly reduced transport-related emissions, ensuring that COP29 set a precedent for sustainable mobility at large-scale events.

Accommodation

Due to the high number of delegates, BZ delegates accounted for the largest share of travel and accommodation emissions, as evidenced by the travel distances and chosen accommodation types.

Excluding the vendors and COP29 team, the attendees were categorized by VVIPs, VIPs, BZ and GZ delegates. The total emission intensity figures per attendee groups were calculated considering the air and ground travel as well as accommodation during the COP29 period, with VVIP and VIP

Transportation and accommodation

International Transportation

International travel was one of the most significant challenges in achieving COP29's carbon neutrality goal. Recognizing that global aviation and shipping emissions increased by 7.8% in 2024, contributing to a 0.8% rise in global CO₂ levels, COP29

emission intensity accounting for approximately 16.2 tCO₂e of emissions.

Figure 13. COP Attendees Total Emission Intensity per Attendee

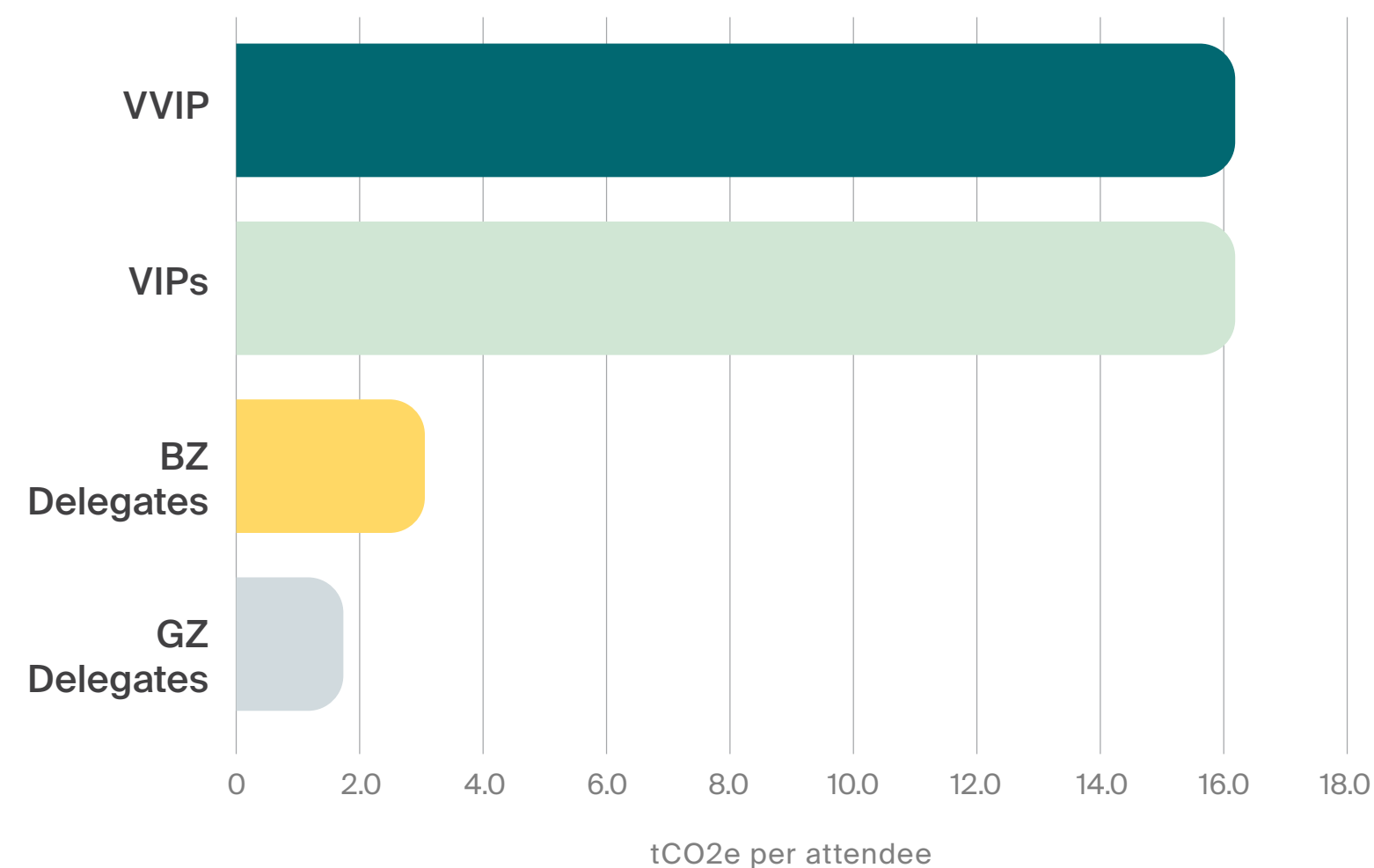


Figure 14. Total emissions reduction from transport

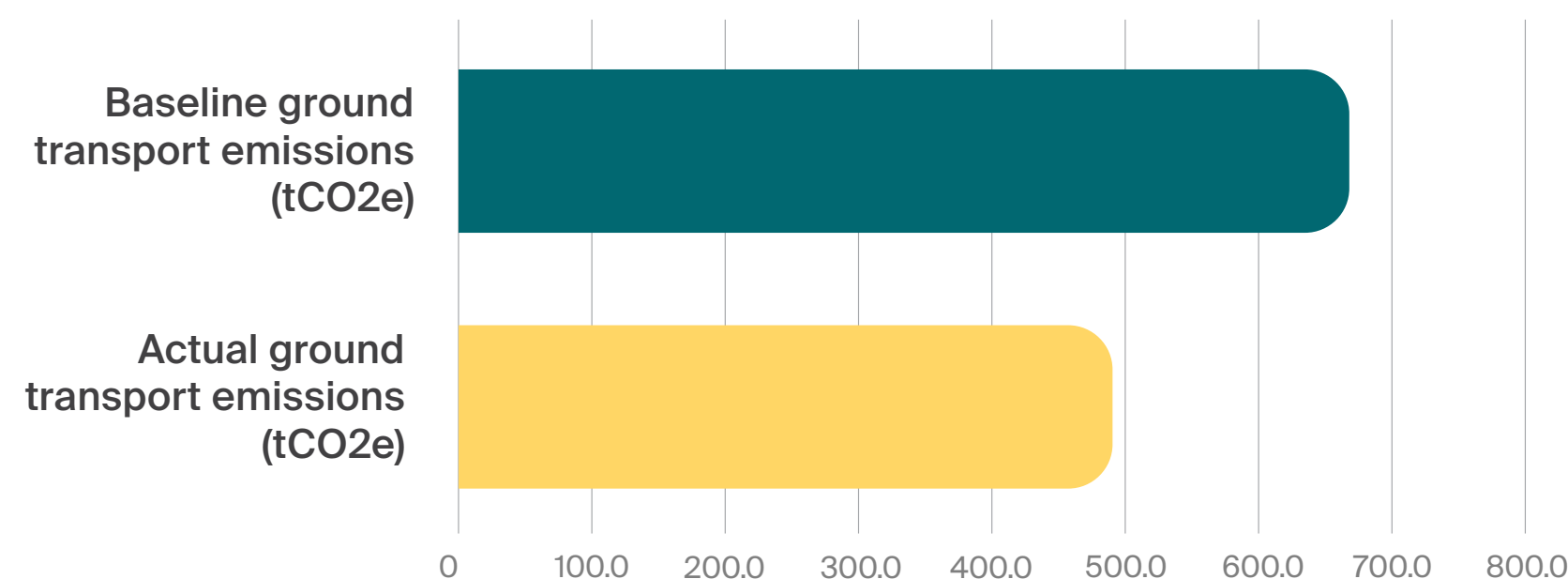
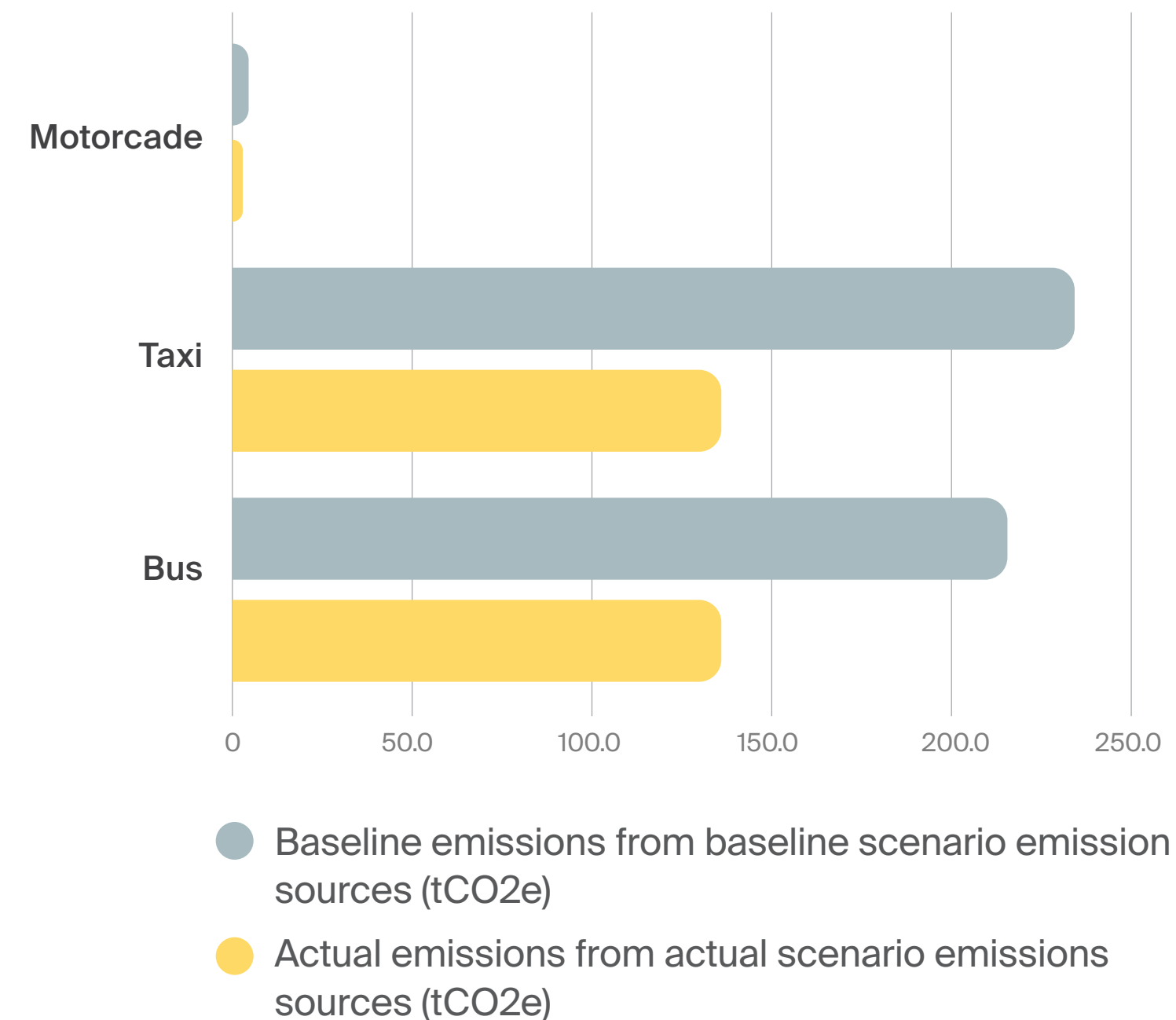


Figure 15. Emissions reduction per source



In comparison with the baseline ground transport emissions, 673.5 tCO₂e, approximately 27.1% of emission reduction was achieved, inclusive of emissions from both zones and three main transportation options – motorcade, taxi and bus. This decrease underscores the initiatives adopted to lower transport-related emissions and employ the most sustainable transportation services during the event. In general, relative to the baseline emissions figures, significant reduction was observed in motorcade (79%) and taxi (42%) use, originating from the use of fully electric vehicles.

AYNA's role in sustainable transportation at COP29



The Azerbaijan Ground Transport Agency (AYNA) played a crucial role in supporting COP29's sustainable transport initiatives, ensuring that attendees had access to low-emission, energy-efficient mobility solutions throughout the event. In alignment with COP29's carbon reduction targets, AYNA allocated a total of 369 buses, which contributed significantly to minimizing event-related transport emissions. This fleet included 206 compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered BMC buses, which offered a lower-emission alternative to diesel buses and 101 BYD electric buses, featuring real-time passenger monitoring systems to optimize efficiency and reduce unnecessary fuel consumption.

By integrating advanced fleet management systems, AYNA ensured that transportation was not only low emission but also highly efficient, reducing traffic congestion and enhancing attendee mobility. The deployment of electric buses and hybrid taxis in collaboration with COP29's broader transport strategy reinforced Azerbaijan's commitment to sustainable urban mobility solutions. Through its contributions, AYNA helped establish a model for environmentally responsible event transportation, showcasing how local transport agencies can play a pivotal role in reducing emissions at large-scale international summits.

During COP29, BYD announced a \$60 million investment in Azerbaijan's EV industry, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable transport and local manufacturing. The partnership includes the annual production of 200 electric buses from 2025 to 2028, the establishment of a \$34 million EV bus plant in Sumgait with a 500-bus annual capacity, and the creation of 800 new jobs. From 2026, production will expand to electric trucks, utility vehicles, and passenger cars, with battery assembly starting in 2028, positioning Azerbaijan as a regional hub for green mobility.



Compensation

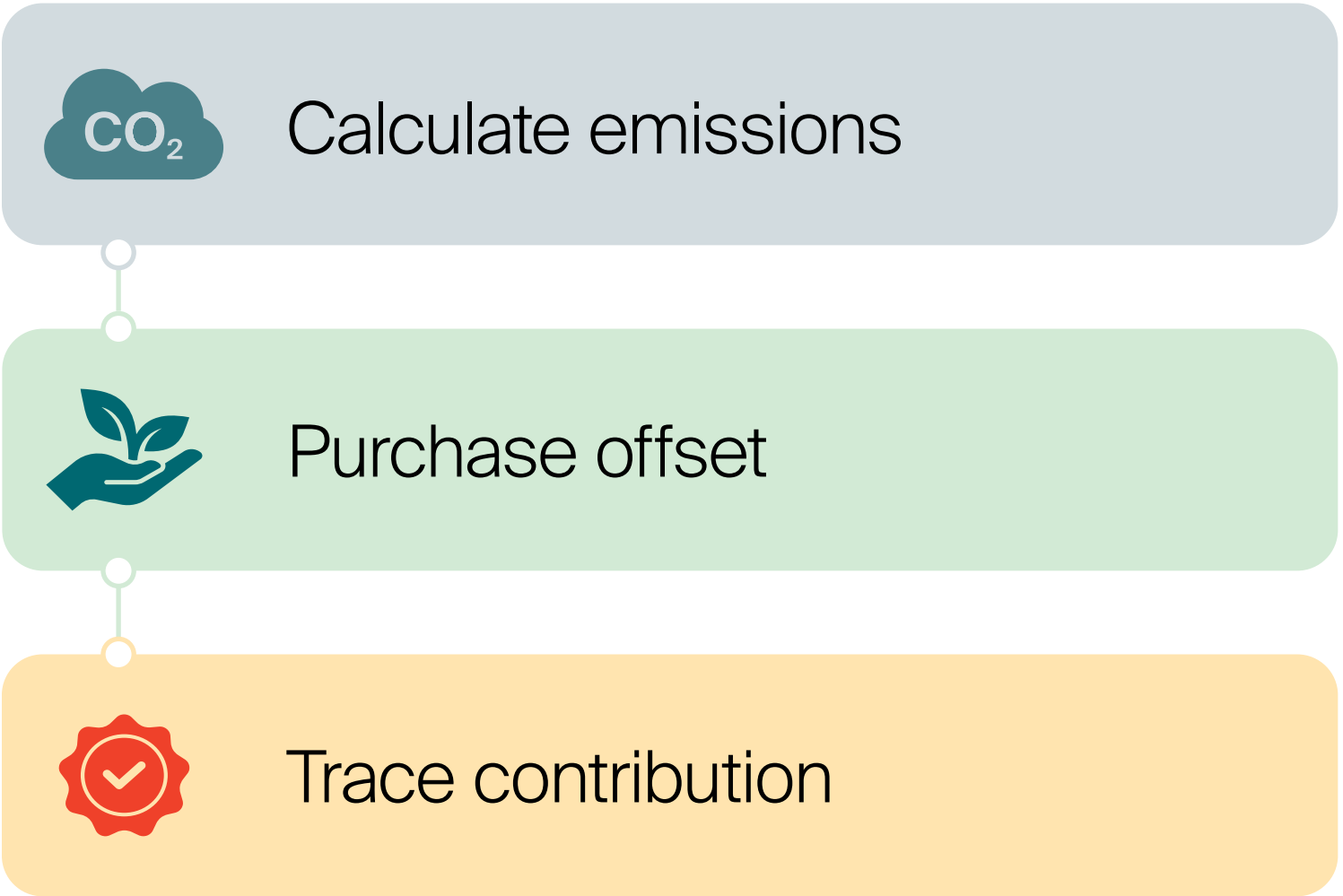
Recognizing that some emissions are unavoidable, COP29 has implemented a robust compensatory strategy to ensure the event remains aligned with its net-zero commitment. COP29 invested in high-quality carbon offset projects certified under the Gold Standard, Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), ensuring all offsets were credible, measurable, and impactful. The offset portfolio totalling 144,000 tCO₂e aligned with the Oxford Offsetting Principles and featured a geographically diverse range of projects across developing countries in Asia, Latin America, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The initiatives featured carbon removal and reduction solutions such as reforestation, peatland restoration, renewable energy, waste-to-energy programs, and methane capture—contributing meaningfully to global emissions reduction targets.

To further maximize local impact, COP29 also funded reforestation programs within Azerbaijan, supporting biodiversity restoration and long-term carbon sequestration.

Recognizing the environmental impact of travel, COP29 introduced the CarbonClick platform, enabling attendees to voluntarily offset their travel footprint. Participants were encouraged to calculate their emissions using the Travel Impact Model and purchase carbon credits from certified

projects that removed or avoided emissions. These projects were independently audited and monitored through a rigorous 7-Point Impact Check, ensuring transparency and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While COP29 allocated its own budget for offsetting event-related emissions, CarbonClick allowed for additional contributions, enabling the selection of higher-quality projects and maximizing climate impact.

Once the carbon footprint calculations were finalized, the offsetting portfolio was selected. By integrating robust emission reduction measures with strategic offset investments, COP29 not only achieved carbon neutrality but also set a scalable example for climate action, leaving a lasting environmental legacy in Azerbaijan and globally.



4.2 Promotion of sustainable practices

COP29 was organized with a strong focus on sustainability, incorporating best practices in responsible sourcing, resource efficiency, and waste management. Efforts included optimizing water use, implementing waste separation, and promoting circular economy principles throughout the event from venue construction to daily operations.

Local collaboration was prioritized, supporting economic development and capacity building. A sustainable procurement policy guided all purchasing decisions, with training provided to vendors on eco-friendly products and responsible supply chain practices.

The venue design emphasized sustainability, using temporary, reusable structures with modular elements for easy disassembly and future reuse. A material inventory was maintained to support redistribution, donation or sustainable disposal post-event.



Waste management

COP29 implemented a comprehensive waste management strategy aimed at diverting 100% of waste from landfills. A robust waste segregation system was established across all venues, providing seven types of waste bins, including designated containers for food waste, plastics and paper. Special bins were also available for electronic, medical, and glass waste, while general waste was processed at waste-to-energy facilities to prevent landfill accumulation. To facilitate



paper recycling, paper-only bins were placed in key areas such as meeting rooms and printing stations. All the plastic waste was carefully sorted, categorized and compressed for further processing and shipment, giving a new life to them after use. E-waste, including batteries, phones, chargers and other devices that require special handling was collected at designated points within the venues, with clear labeling and guidance. In general, different types of waste were transported separately to avoid cross-contamination and enabled further processing.

Moreover, a collaboration was made with Tamiz Shahar OJSC, Baku's municipal waste management company, to ensure effective sorting and recycling of materials.

The waste generated before, during and after the event was largely recycled (68.1%), with the rest of the waste being incinerated (31.9%) and composted. All the generated plastics were fully recycled, leaving minimal environmental footprint throughout the event.

68.1% recycled

31.9% incinerated

Sustainable resource use

COP29 prioritized the sustainable water use across all event operations. Water-saving technologies, such as low-flow fixtures and efficient appliances, were installed at all venues. In collaboration with local water authorities, usage was closely monitored to prevent overconsumption and protect nearby water bodies from pollution. The COP29 sustainability team also actively tracked and addressed any instances of water leakage, reinforcing responsible water management throughout the event. To support sustainable resource use initiatives, COP29 promoted environmentally responsible accommodation options for participants by establishing a sustainability certification system to ensure that accommodation providers met high standards of environmental performance, including energy and water efficiency, waste reduction, and responsible sourcing of materials. Sustainability guidelines and capacity-building initiatives were provided to accommodation providers to equip them with the tools needed to enhance their environmental practices. These efforts supported COP29's broader environmental goals and ensured an ecofriendly experience for all attendees.



Türkiye's "Zero Waste" pavilion at COP29

Green Zone provided ample opportunities for raising awareness and demonstrating initiatives around sustainable operations, including waste management, sustainable sourcing and energy efficiency. As an exemplary model for sustainable waste management initiatives, Türkiye's "Zero Waste" pavilion was organized by the Presidency's Directorate of Communications in the Green Zone, demonstrating the country's environmental policies and initiatives, aligned with the 2053 Net-Zero target.

The "Zero Waste" initiative promotes waste reduction and recycling under the UN Zero Waste Advisory Board, reinforcing Türkiye's commitment to a greener future.

Pavilion highlights

Located in the Green Zone of COP29, the pavilion captivated visitors with:

- Engaging Design: 3D visuals, holograms and special exhibitions showcasing Türkiye's green initiatives.

- Interactive Content: Short films, infographics and a holographic exhibition on endemic plants and endangered species.
- Sustainability Efforts: "From Waste to Art" exhibition featuring recycled materials and the Local Seed Project promoting biodiversity.
- Awareness Campaigns: Publications such as "The World is Our Common Home" and efforts like the Water Efficiency Campaign.





On-Site Composting Initiative

COP29 implemented an on-site composting system in both the Blue and Green Zones, effectively diverting food waste produced during the event from landfills and converting it into organic fertilizer. This initiative aligned with the principles of a circular economy, contributing positively to the environment by transforming waste into valuable compost utilized to enhance public green spaces, including parks and gardens in Baku. All food waste collected throughout the event was directed to composting facilities for processing into nutrient-rich organic fertilizers. The composting system was instrumental in minimizing landfill waste, enhancing soil quality, and fostering sustainable waste management practices during the conference.



Reduction of Single-Use Plastics

To minimize the environmental impact of plastic waste, COP29 encouraged the use of reusable and biodegradable alternatives by providing attendees with COP29-branded reusable bottles. A Single-Use Plastic Ban was enforced throughout the event, requiring vendors and attendees to adhere to the policy. A network of water refill stations was strategically installed across the venue, allowing participants to refill their bottles conveniently. This initiative not only reduced the use of single-use plastics but also served as a practical way to promote sustainable behavior among participants.

Additionally, the use of polythene bags was limited only to few instances of coverage and transportation, which were later dismantled and sent for recycling, ensuring minimal environmental impact. Clear signage and reminders were displayed across the venues to inform and remind the attendees about the policy.



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



**Bring your own bottle,
stay plastic free**

Öz su qabınızı gətirin, plastikdən
daha az istifadə edin

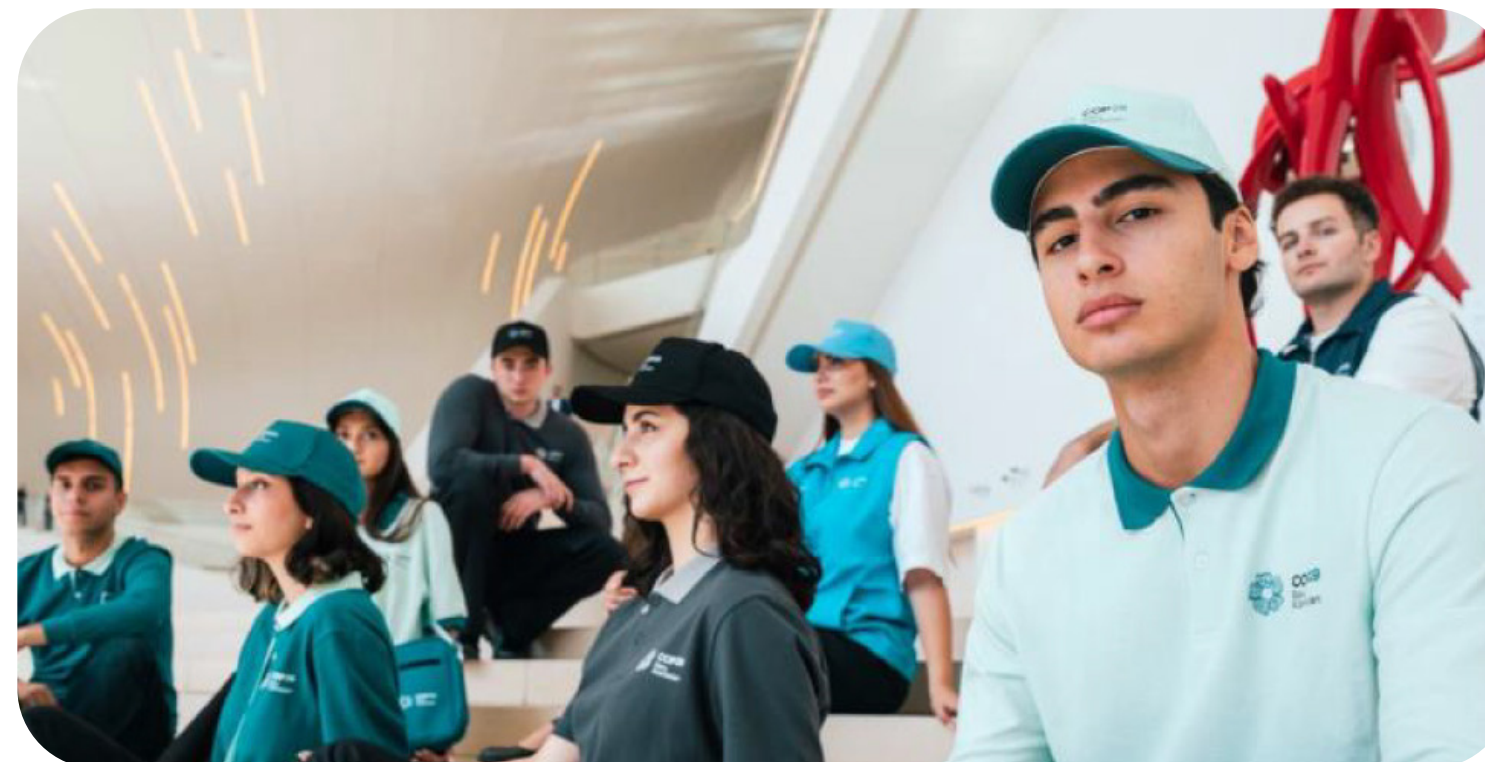
Circularity: Ensuring maximum reuse and repurpose of COP29 products and materials post-event

COP29 embraced a circular economy approach by encouraging the reuse, redistribution, and responsible recycling of purchased goods to minimize waste and maximize resource efficiency. A second-life plan and repurpose/re-use strategies were developed for each category of items. As part of its sustainability efforts, workforce uniforms were made from eco-friendly materials with longer life-cycle, allowing for reuse and redistribution. Workforce members were also reminded of the eco-friendly washing practices, encouraging the use of eco-friendly detergents to reduce water pollution. Given the significant representation of volunteers among the workforce, this initiative serves as an important prospect for raising awareness and fostering education on key sustainability actions.



In the post-event period, the uniforms were included in voluntary donation campaigns along with other purchased goods. This initiative not only extended the life-cycle of the uniforms but also supported local communities, leaving a positive legacy for future events. The furniture, ICT equipment and COP29 merchandise were redistributed to government offices and public spaces. In addition, construction materials were donated to the BARS Dog Shelter in Baku to support improvements in animal welfare infrastructure. The generated e-waste from the used ICT equipment is responsibly recycled through certified e-waste management providers in Azerbaijan, in cases where reuse is not an option.

At the end of the event, participants were encouraged to return their accreditation cards, with personal information being protected and securely demolished. The cards were collected in boxes available across the venue and were sent for further recycling.



Sustainable food choices

As a continuation of COP29's commitment to sustainable procurement, a slow food movement was integrated into the catering practice. Rooted in principles that emphasize local food traditions, biodiversity, and ethical production, the slow food approach was seamlessly woven into various aspects of the event, fostering an appreciation for environmentally conscious and socially responsible practices. One key feature was the emphasis on locally sourced and seasonal ingredients in catering services. Meals provided at the event celebrated regional culinary traditions while reducing the carbon footprint associated with food transportation. The menu featured 95% locally sourced ingredients, exceeding the initial target defined as 80% local sourcing. For this purpose, COP29 AOC partnered with local communities and small-scale producers to supply food products and ingredients, creating economic opportunities for marginalized groups as well.

Catering companies were urged to offer a menu selection matching a variety of food preferences, where at least two-thirds of items were vegetarian or vegan. The suppliers were trained to reduce packaging materials and avoid single-use plastic.



Slow Food at COP29



The Slow Food movement, advocating for sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and local food cultures, was prominently featured at COP29 in Baku. Its principles closely aligned with COP29's focus on climate-smart agriculture, responsible consumption, and sustainable tourism.

The highlight of the cooperation was the panel titled as “Slow Food, Low Impact: Advancing Sustainable Tourism with Local Agroproducts”, organized on November 19, 2024, in the Green Zone. The session explored how integrating traditional farming and local products can reduce tourism's environmental footprint while boosting local economies. One of the speakers, Sakina Asgarova, Head of the Gastronomy Department at the Reserves Management Center under the State Tourism Agency, highlighted Azerbaijan's biodiversity and culinary heritage, and Edward Mukiibi, President of Slow Food, called for

stronger government support for small-scale farmers, local communities, and traditional food producers. Daily presentations on Slow Food at the Azerbaijan Pavilion in the Blue Zone further showcased gastrotourism products inspired by Azerbaijan's diverse ecosystems, providing a tangible taste of the Slow Food philosophy



4.3 Accessibility and inclusivity

4.3.1 Accessibility

COP29 provided a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants. The Code of Conduct ensured that everyone, regardless of their ability or background, could fully participate in the event.

Respect

COP29 fostered a culture where all participants felt welcome and valued, encouraging respect for diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Inclusivity

COP29 actively promoted the participation of all communities, embraced diverse perspectives, and ensured open, constructive intercultural dialogue.

Accessibility

The venues and services were fully accessible, featuring ramps, elevators, and assistive listening devices to accommodate all attendees.

Digital Access

Sessions were live streamed and recorded to ensure seamless access to event materials.

Support

The staff and volunteers were trained to uphold best practices in inclusivity, providing personalized support ensuring every attendee had a positive and equitable experience.

As the largest event hosted by Azerbaijan so far, with more than 75,000 registered participants from 196 countries, groundbreaking efforts were made to foster an environment where all participants could engage actively, regardless of their abilities. Accessibility initiatives, ranging from physical infrastructure improvements to the provision of specialized services, ensured that COP29 was barrier-free and accommodating to individuals with special needs. Inclusivity was equally prioritized, with diverse representation across all levels of participation, including staff, speakers, panelists, and other attendees. These initiatives reflected the principles of equality embedded in the KPIs and targets in our

policies, operations, and efforts to ensure equitable climate discussions.

Support for Hearing and Vision-impaired attendees

For the first time in COP history, sign language interpretation and audio induction loop systems were implemented in the Plenary Hall to assist individuals with hearing or speech impairments. This initiative enabled attendees with hearing impairments to engage with key sessions and discussions, setting a best-practice precedent for future COP events. Additionally, resources such as Braille maps, booklets, and signage were made available to visually impaired attendees, enabling them to navigate the venue with ease. Furthermore, the COP29.az website was designed to be fully accessible for individuals with visual impairments, ensuring that all participants could access essential information and resources online.



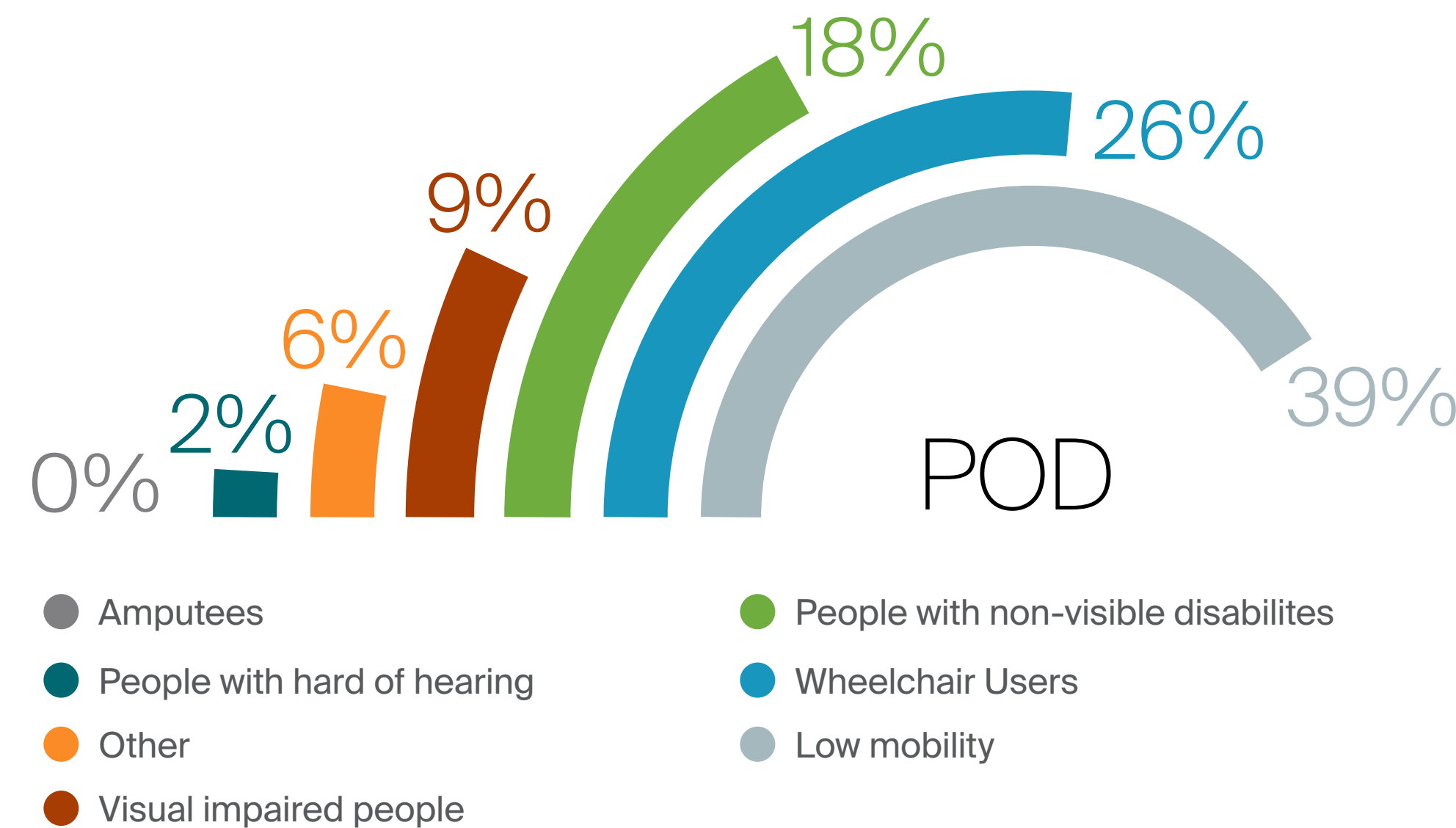
Support for Wheelchair users

We also provided the wheelchair users with specialized lanes in public screening areas and a dedicated wheelchair maintenance service to ensure uninterrupted mobility and continued support throughout the venue. Services such as wheelchair reservations and push services saw high utilization rates, particularly during key event days like the opening and closing ceremonies. Throughout the event days, free taxi services for wheelchair users between the airport, accommodation and venue were provided. Moreover, in order to prevent congestion and delays, conditions for the accessible evacuation of people with disabilities were established and tested on a regular basis.

Key Statistical Data

The outcomes of COP29 underscore a significant commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, as evidenced by the event's tailored approach to meeting the needs of diverse participants. A key highlight was the support provided to People of Determination (POD), which encompassed a wide range of individuals requiring mobility, sensory, or cognitive accommodations. Among the existing groups, wheelchair users and individuals with autism or neurodevelopmental conditions represented the majority.

Figure 16. Support provided to different categories of People of Determination (POD) - participant demographics



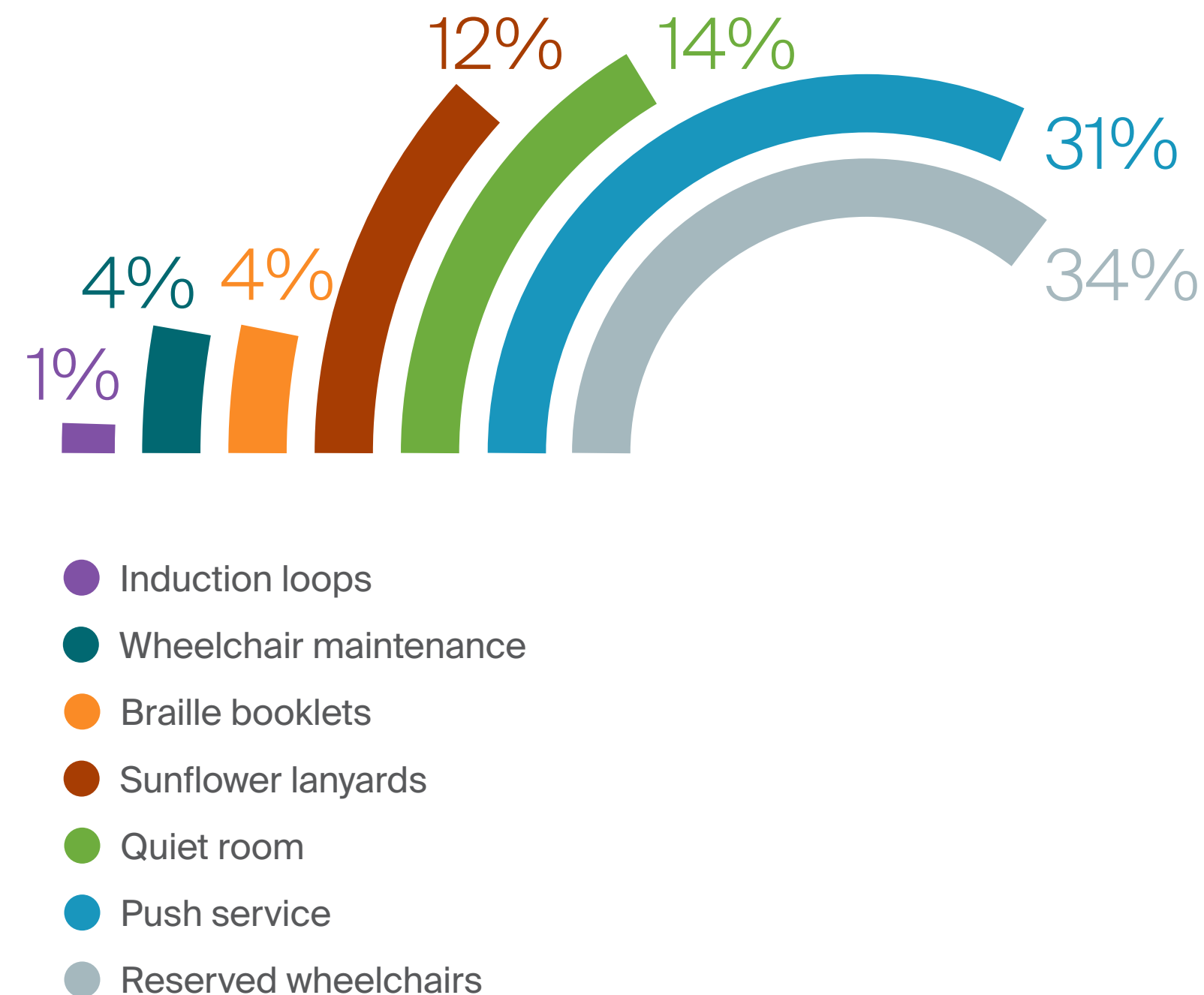
This figure reflects COP29's effort to accommodate attendees with both visible and non-visible disabilities, ensuring equal participation in conference activities. The event catered to 11 visually impaired participants, 3 individuals with hearing difficulties and 77 attendees requiring temporary assistance due to age or injury.

Other services, including quiet rooms and induction loops, were also regularly used, highlighting the importance of

sensory support for individuals with specific needs. Braille booklets and sunflower lanyards considerably enhanced the experience for participants with visible and non-visible disabilities and were largely appreciated by the majority of users for the availability and usefulness. In total, 68% of the attendees with disabilities reported their positive experience with the signage and maps provided.



Figure 17. Key services used



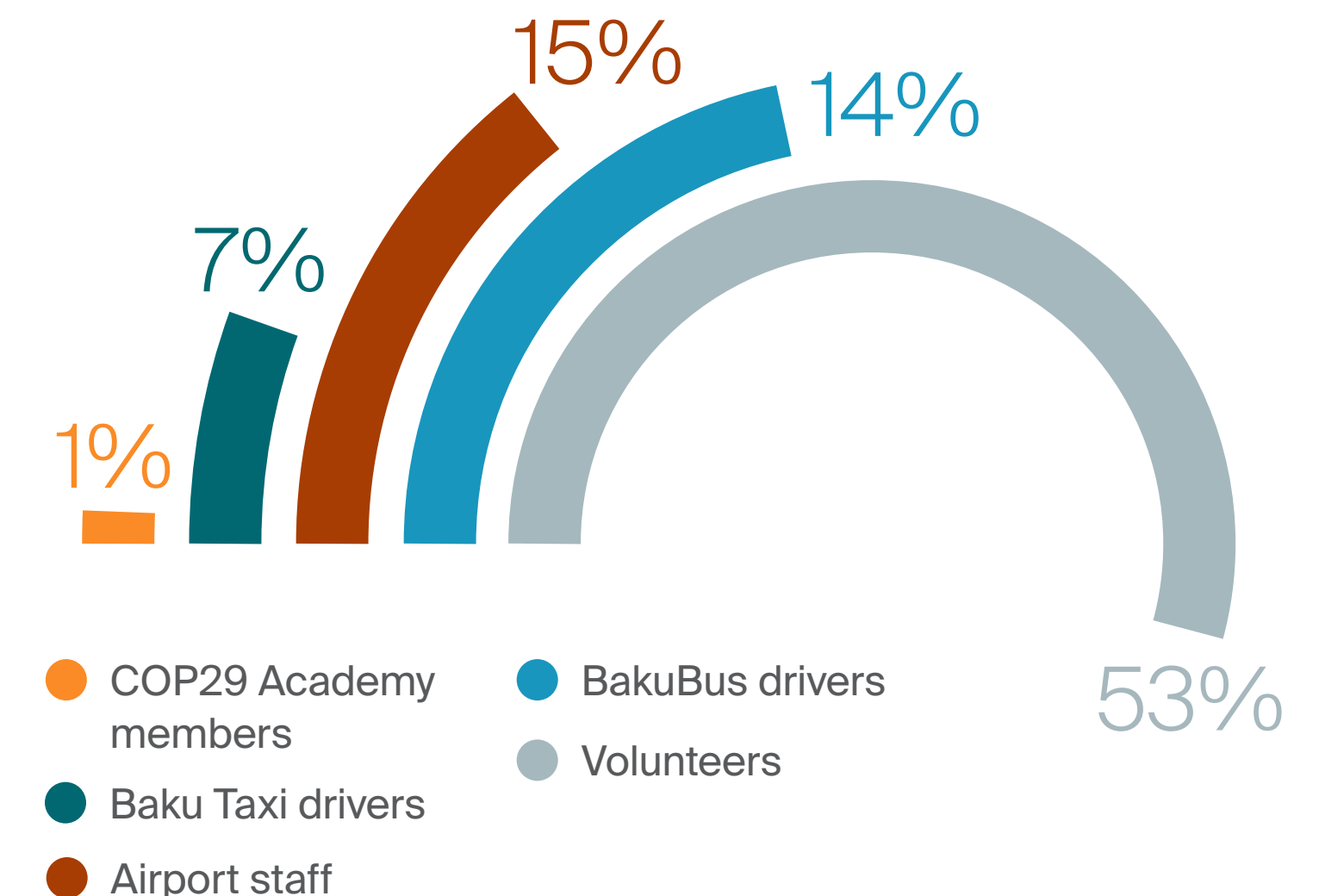
The largest share of services, 34% out of the total 100%, consisted of reserved wheelchairs, emphasizing the importance of mobility aids.

Different accessibility services were provided throughout the event in both zones, ensuring fully accessible and equal participation of the attendees. According to the results of the post-event assessments, 31% of those who utilized mobility support services made use of push services, further indicating a high demand for such support. Quiet rooms were accessed by 14% of attendees, showcasing the value of sensory-friendly spaces for individuals seeking a calm environment. Additionally, 78 services (12%) involved the use of sunflower lanyards, which allowed for the discreet identification of non-visible disabilities. Braille booklets and wheelchair maintenance each accounted for 27 services (4%) of the total, ensuring essential support for individuals with visual or hearing impairments. Finally, 4 services (1%) specifically involved the use of induction loops.

Specialized training for COP29 staff and volunteers

Staff and volunteers were trained to assist participants, and a curated list of accessible accommodations were offered to attendees. Pre-event training sessions were conducted for all personnel to build awareness of accessibility standards and ensure assistance during the event, including the volunteers involved in both zones. This increased the preparedness of all key personnel of COP29, allowing for enhanced interactions with attendees, smooth operational efficiency throughout the event and swift resolutions of any inquiries related to specific needs of diverse attendees.

Figure 18. Specialized training



The largest group consisted of 3,000 volunteers, highlighting their crucial role in supporting event logistics and participants.

Due to the large representation of volunteers among the support team, most of the training focused on their timely and thorough preparation. Overall, 5,000 role-specific and 7,000 general training sessions were provided to the volunteers, regardless of their work location and involvement. The training sessions empowered the workforce with the expertise and social skills necessary for event operation and self-development, highlighting COP29's commitment to equipping

key personnel with the skills needed to provide an inclusive, accessible, and well-organized event experience.

Given the Transportation team’s direct interaction with the guests, a significant portion of the training sessions was designated specifically for them. As the key bus services provider, 1,240 Baku Bus drivers were trained, emphasizing the importance of accessible and efficient transportation for attendees. From the earliest weeks to the COP29 buildup, 840 people of the Heydar Aliyev International airport staff was trained to ensure a comfortable, secure and guided experience of the guests. Additionally, 90 employees from the “Guest services” department received training to enhance the overall participant experience.

Among the individuals participating in the successful delivery of the event, 410 Baku Taxi drivers were trained to meet the transportation needs of diverse attendees. COP29 Academy members, totalling 29 people, underwent specialized training to handle event coordination and ensure seamless travel for participants. Moreover, 12 medical staff and 70 “call center” and “info point” employees were involved in the programmes to provide hands-on assistance to the participants.

Accessible accommodation and transportation

To ensure a fully accessible experience for individuals with diverse needs outside the venue areas, dedicated accommodations and transportation teams were established to coordinate and oversee operations. These teams worked

closely with service providers and other departments, ensuring timely communication and seamless coordination.

An essential aspect of the preparation, particularly given the large number of participants during the operationalization of COP29, was the effectiveness of navigational tools and instructions. According to the findings, 68% of respondents confirmed the availability of designated special lanes for individuals with disabilities during peak hours. The physical infrastructure of the event was thoughtfully designed to eliminate access barriers, incorporating key elements such as elevators, accessible restrooms, and quiet rooms to cater to a wide range of needs.

294

Installed
ramps

2

Mobility-
considerate
elevators

26

Accessible
sanitary facilities

530

Braille door
signages and
safety markers

These features included wheelchair-accessible rooms, public areas, and family suites with child-friendly amenities to ensure a comfortable experience for everyone. Furthermore, an on-site accessibility information point provided essential support for those requiring additional assistance.

Moreover, transportation at COP29 was managed through collaboration among key stakeholders, including agencies responsible for ground transport, metro services, road infrastructure, airport operations, official taxi services, traffic regulation, and rail transport. Innovative measures included the implementation of real-time passenger monitoring systems on buses to enhance efficiency. Bus loading zones were strategically located based on demand in different areas to ensure even passenger distribution and prevent overcrowding. Special consideration was given to accessibility needs, with designated parking and access points for priority groups, ensuring convenient and efficient transportation. Survey results reinforced the importance of accessible transport, with 192 participants highlighting the availability of essential features such as ramps and wheelchair spaces on shuttle buses.



Digital maps and transport

COP29 delegates accessed branded taxis and 400+ buses connecting Heydar Aliyev Airport to Baku transport hubs. Free shuttles for accredited attendees provided 24/7 airport transfers and direct routes to the conference venue near Koroghlu metro station.

For an uninterrupted and accessible transportation experience, the COP29 website provided detailed information and digital tools on navigation options across the city. This included user-friendly digital map, bus schedule and information about the available alternatives.



Digital transportation map

This user-friendly tool allowed users to explore transport hubs, event venues, zones, accommodations, and more. It highlighted shuttle pick-up/drop-off points and enabled users to select their preferred transport mode (driving, riding, or walking) for easy city navigation. Transportation schedules were linked and updated daily.

Digital navigation venue map

The COP29 Digital Navigation Venue Map was an interactive, browser-based tool for navigating the Green and Blue Zones. By scanning a QR code, users could set a starting point and receive step-by-step directions to destinations within the venue. It featured a searchable interface with listings for key locations.



Provision of a Quiet room

To better cater to the specific needs of individuals with sensory sensitivities, or those in need of a calm environment during the event, a sensory relief “quiet room” was provided. This amenity offered a safe and relaxed environment for attendees, creating a space to reduce sensory overload and enabling their continued participation at the event.

Quiet room and information points provided essential support for attendees with sensory sensitivities and offering clear guidance throughout the event.

Accessibility helpdesk & data requests

Easily accessible, on-site helpdesks were organized to give additional information and support for attendees with diverse needs, also offering personalized assistance.

As a result of the helpdesk operations, detailed daily data was recorded, describing the types of accessibility requests received at help desks and other touchpoints during the event.

614 Service usage times



4.3.2 Inclusivity

COP29 placed a strong emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring diverse representation and active participation from under represented groups, particularly women, youth, and indigenous communities. Women-led discussions and a high level impact event highlighted their critical role in climate action, while extensive youth engagement saw over 4,000 young individuals contributing to various initiatives, including the COP29 Academy and volunteer programs. Additionally, a survey was conducted among the visitors for the assessment of sustainability and accessibility initiatives implemented during the event. In total, 2325 responses were received as to evaluate the usage and satisfaction levels among the guests.

Women represented more than half of the speakers in sessions organized in the Green Zone – discussing climate-related challenges and associated economic, social, and governance issues. A high-level impact event was organized by the COP29 Operating Company in collaboration with the telecommunications company, Azercell Telecom LLC, to explore the unique challenges

and opportunities for women in climate action and highlight their critical role in building a sustainable future for all. The event brought together Women Climate Champions – leading female scientists, experts, and practitioners from different countries, including Patricia Espinosa, Former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2016-2022) and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.



In addition to these efforts, COP29 placed a special focus on the unique climate vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). A dedicated session, held in the Green Zone, brought together representatives from SIDS communities, climate experts, and international stakeholders to highlight the fragility of SIDS ecosystems and the urgent need for climate adaptation and resilience-building. The session also underlined the importance of preserving biodiversity in island nations and the critical need for

tailored climate finance solutions to support these highly vulnerable regions.

Recognizing the importance of ensuring SIDS voices are heard at the global level, the COP29 Presidency provided financial support to enable delegates from SIDS to participate in COP29. This financial assistance ensured that SIDS representatives could share their experiences, challenges, and solutions directly with the international community, reinforcing COP29's commitment to inclusivity, global solidarity, and leaving no one behind in the fight against climate change.

Youth Engagement

All the above initiatives would have been impossible without the invaluable support of volunteers, whose contributions were key to the event's success and smooth operation. Youth engagement was significant, with over 4,000 young individuals actively participating in more than 36 events across five regions. Over 2,500 volunteers were selected from a pool of 16,000 registrations, following 10,000 interviews and 7,000 training sessions.

As one of the key themes of the event, youth empowerment was further highlighted during the "Youth at the Forefront of Climate Action" conference, which brought together First Ladies from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The event emphasized the pivotal role of young people in driving climate solutions, fostering regional cooperation, and

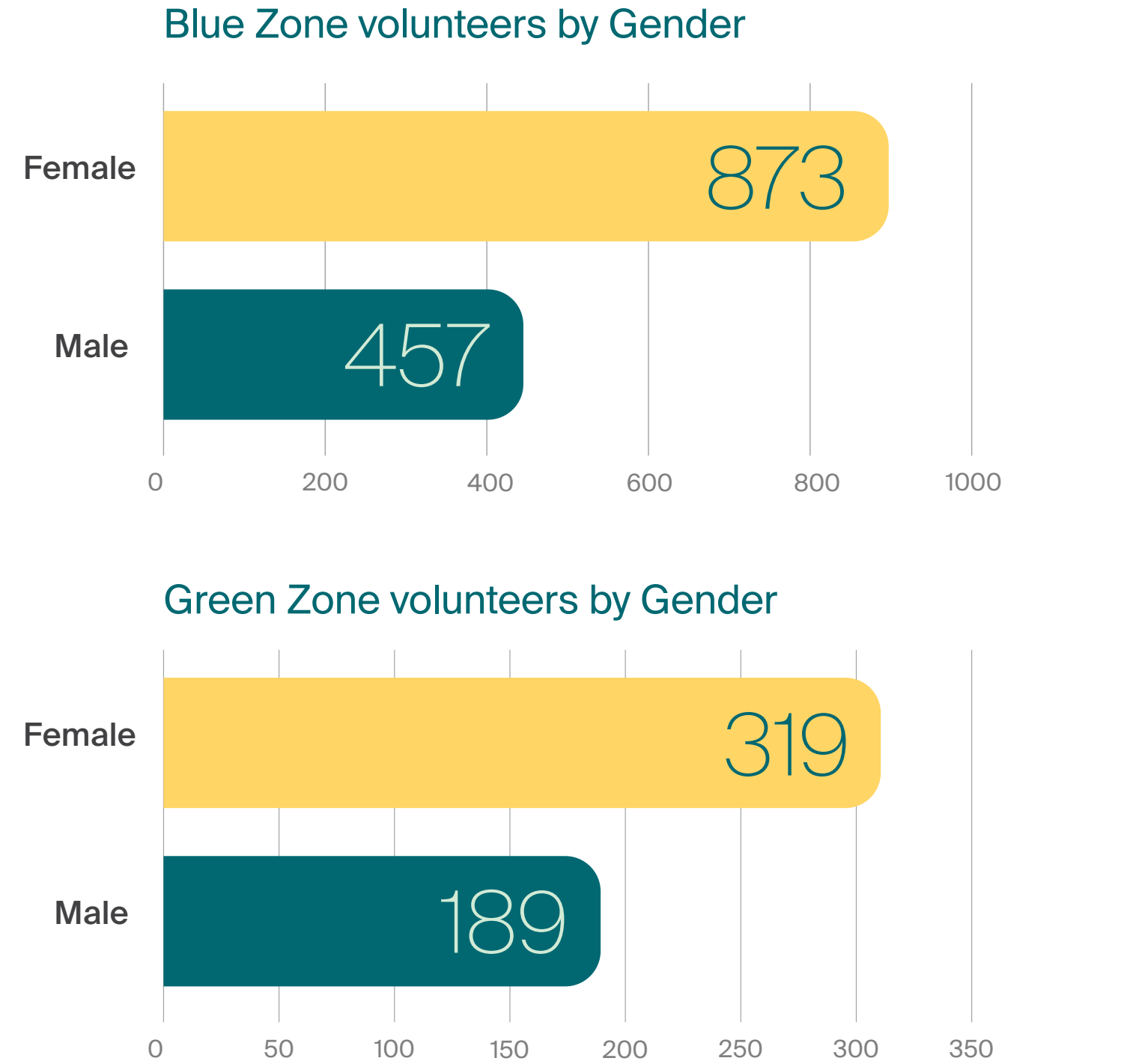
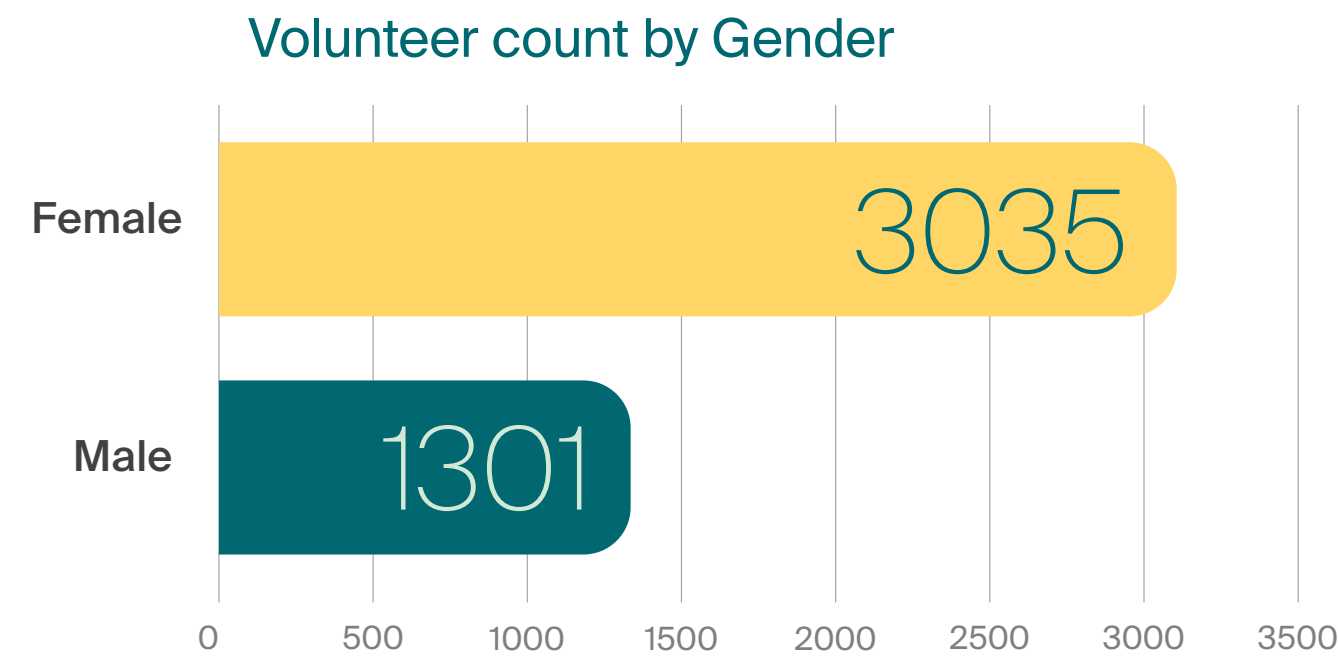
ensuring youth voices actively shape global climate policy — especially across Turkic-speaking countries and Central Asia.

The dedication and professionalism of COP29 volunteers were highly appreciated by all attendees, with many emphasizing their hospitality and proactiveness that played a crucial role in the seamless execution of the event.

Volunteers' management:



Figure 19. Volunteer count by gender and zone



COP29 Academy, established to foster youth development and promote knowledge-sharing on environmental challenges, played a pivotal role in strengthening youth participation in the lead-up to COP29. With over 350 applicants, selected participants received intensive training and completed various capacity-building programs, preparing them to support different operational departments during the event.



During the pre-COP period, the Operating Company organized the Eco Enaction project for COP29 volunteers on August 29-30 at the Heydar Aliyev Centre. This two-day interactive event combined training sessions and workshops on topics such as climate change, sustainability and waste management, along with a team-based environmental project competition. Volunteers were engaged in tasks on developing and presenting innovative environmental projects, with the most creative and impactful ideas receiving awards.

The Eco Enaction not only enhanced team spirit, creative thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills, but also provided valuable mentoring support, helping volunteers present and develop ideas to address climate challenges.

Team spirit and engagement were further reinforced through dynamic events, including team-building exercises and post-event celebrations, which significantly boosted morale and strengthened their sense of belonging. The initiatives helped to transfer the weeks of intensive volunteering into a valuable experience, and left a positive legacy for Azerbaijani youth, motivating them towards meaningful participation in further events and global environmental initiatives.



As part of its preparations for hosting COP29, Azerbaijan undertook a major initiative to promote global environmental action through community involvement. In the Mushfiqabad settlement near Baku, over 500 people gathered to raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation, afforestation, and climate change mitigation.

During the event, participants planted 3,000 Afghan pines and olive trees, carefully chosen for their ability to thrive in the distinct soil and climate conditions of the Absheron Peninsula. Following the tree-planting activity, volunteers engaged in a flashmob dedicated to COP29, symbolizing Azerbaijan's commitment to advancing climate action on a global scale.

This initiative was organized through the collaboration of the COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Azerbaijan Union of Voluntary Organizations. The event brought together students, volunteers, and representatives from government institutions, private sector entities, and civil society organizations, all united in their support for environmental sustainability.



Azerbaijan commits to child-centered climate action at COP29

At the start of COP29, the Government of Azerbaijan signed the Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action, committing to prioritizing children in climate policies.

Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources and COP29 President, Mukhtar Babayev, signed the declaration



at a ceremony attended by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell, Youth Climate Champion Leyla Hasanova, government officials, and young people from Azerbaijan.

UNICEF welcomed Azerbaijan's commitment, recognizing the Declaration as a key step toward child and youth-focused climate policies.

Climate change had already been threatening children's health, safety, and access to essential services. At the time, one billion children—half the world's child population—were living in one of 33 countries at 'extremely high risk' from climate impacts.

"Today we are reinforcing Azerbaijan's commitment to a climate process that delivers for children and youth," said Mukhtar Babayev. "And we encourage all parties to consider how their climate action will deliver a more sustainable future for children and youth."

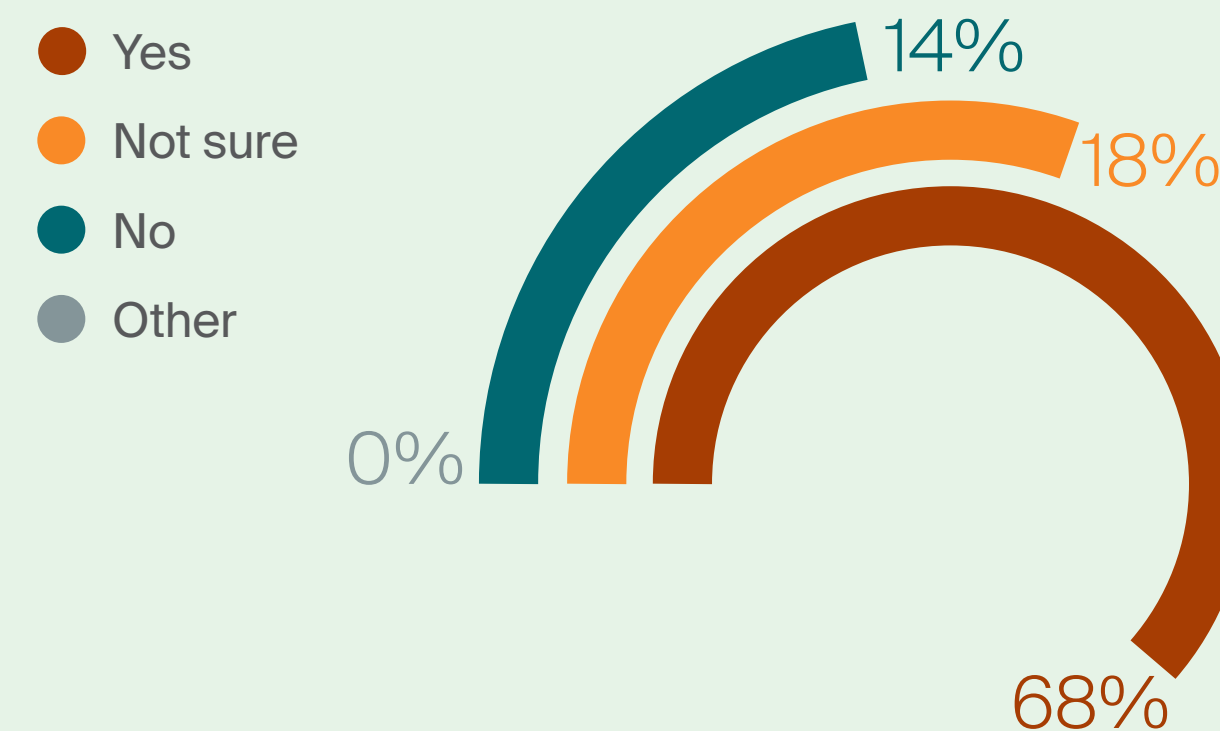
"It is imperative that we put children at the heart of climate change policies and invest in solutions that protect children from the impacts of climate change," said Catherine Russell. "Azerbaijan's signing of the Declaration is another step in that direction, placing children at the center of the climate agenda."

To ensure the Declaration led to real action, UNICEF worked with governments and partners to strengthen education, social protection, and healthcare systems, making them more resilient to climate challenges.

Stakeholder Engagement: Survey Findings

To further encourage stakeholder engagement and consider their valuable inputs in post-event evaluation and future planning, a special survey was distributed. The COP29 Sustainability and Accessibility Survey provided beneficial insights into the conference's efforts to foster accessibility and inclusivity.

Figure 20. Usefulness and effectiveness of the digital navigation map of the venue



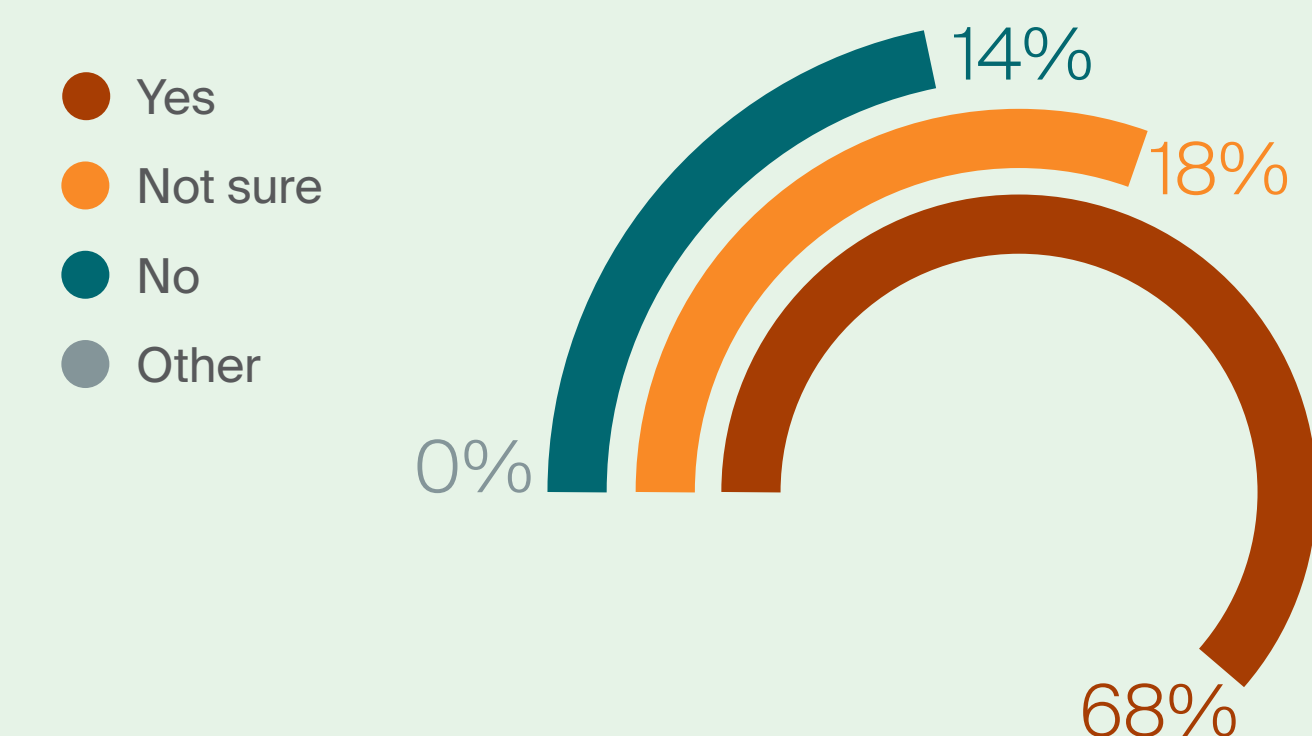
68% of respondents noted a digital navigation map format of the venue was useful.

This survey-based pie chart showcases the effectiveness of providing digital navigation options. Nevertheless,

existing responses of "No" and "Not sure" indicate the potential areas of improvement concerning the awareness and effectiveness of the digital option for the map.

A significant majority, 68%, responded positively, affirming that the ramps were accessible.

Figure 21. Are the ramps at the entrance and exit areas accessible?



Still, 14% indicated that the ramps were not accessible, highlighting potential infrastructural gaps or omissions. Additionally, 18% of participants were unsure about the accessibility of the ramps, suggesting a need for clearer signage or better communication about these features.

4.4 Legacy and Continuity

Legacy and continuity

As the second largest COP in history with a substantively high number of delegates and a major milestone in global climate change discourse, COP29 not only yielded substantial outcomes on the international stage but also established a transformative legacy for advancing sustainability within Azerbaijan as the host nation. The conference left multi-dimensional and long-term impacts for Azerbaijan from economic, social and environmental perspectives, leveraging Azerbaijan's role in the global arena. The event created a robust ground for knowledge exchange, fostering a collaborative framework to address emerging challenges by integrating insights from past experiences and leaving a constructive and enduring legacy.

Besides facilitating the country's progress towards its climate objectives, COP29 contributed necessarily to the business environment, societal development and policy framework in Azerbaijan. Hosting such a large-scale event helped to uplift Azerbaijan's position in climate discussions, support the growth of alternative economic sectors, boost private sector development, foster investment climate and shift societal dynamics.

Key initiatives developed:



Adoption of two ISO-based standards in collaboration with the Azerbaijan Institute of Standardization: "Framework for Implementing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Principles" and Green Business Management Systems (AZS 962:2024)



Development and approval of the Azerbaijan National Green Taxonomy document to guide financial institutions by providing a standardized framework for evaluating environmentally sustainable projects



Launch of educational resources, including toolkits, teachers' guide, informative videos and online sustainability courses in Azerbaijani with the support of international and local partners



Establishment of the unified ESG National Platform to provide resources and networking opportunities for stakeholders committed to ESG practices



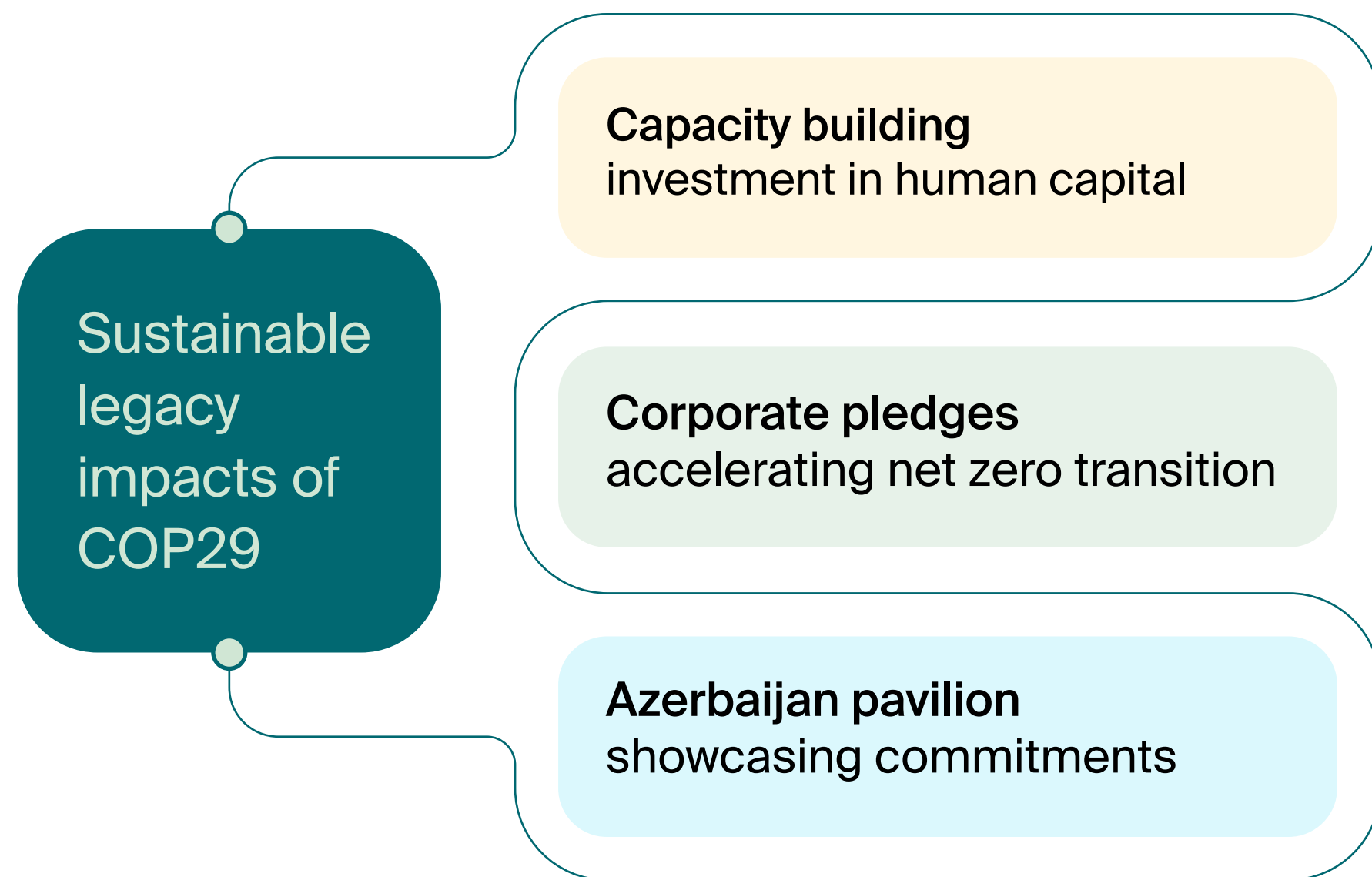
Introduction of two industry-based national pledges: 1) banking sector to support green projects, 2) construction sector to promote sustainable practices



Training sessions and development of sustainability guidelines for local hotels ahead of COP29

These initiatives were implemented with the support of various national and international partners, including the Cabinet of Ministers, the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan Banks Association, UN Azerbaijan, and private sector representatives covering a wide spectrum of activities.





1 Capacity building and knowledge transfer – Investment in human capital

Building climate awareness and equipping stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills was essential for sustaining climate action momentum after COP29. Strengthening climate literacy empowered individuals, businesses, and institutions to make informed decisions, align their operations with climate goals, and actively contribute to national and global sustainability efforts.

- Multiple capacity-building programmes were developed and launched to empower individuals, enhance professional skills, and educate the broader community.
- These programmes targeted both local communities and diverse stakeholder groups, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to implement climate action initiatives in their respective countries and sectors.
- Training sessions covered topics such as climate science, sustainable practices, ESG principles, and international climate diplomacy, directly engaging over 1,500 participants through 42 specialized sessions.
- Special focus was placed on developing local expertise, ensuring that climate action could continue and evolve long after COP29.
- A series of sectoral training sessions on sustainability practices, ESG reporting, and green transformation were conducted for representatives of 11 different stakeholder groups, including state agencies, corporations, SMEs, academia, NGOs, urban planners, and the public.

These capacity-building efforts created a foundation for Azerbaijan's climate leadership, ensuring that a skilled workforce capable of driving green transitions, fostering innovation, and building long-term climate resilience was established across all sectors.



Capacity building programme for government agencies

The COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company implemented an extensive training and capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening the sustainability competencies of Azerbaijan’s government agencies in alignment with global climate goals. Conducted from 8 to 26 July, the programme featured a combination of online sessions and live information-sharing modules, designed to familiarize government entities with the COP process and enhance their participation in the event. The initiative, developed in collaboration with international experts, provided targeted sessions on climate, sustainability, governance, and social aspects, equipping representatives from 49 agencies across various sectors, including transportation, energy, climate finance, food security, healthcare, tourism, and education. This comprehensive approach aimed to deepen participants’ understanding of climate-related challenges and facilitate the development of effective response strategies. In addition to training, information session was conducted with the COP29 Organizing Committee, focusing on key climate action areas, thematic days, and the COP29 Presidency’s agenda. This initiative marked the first of its kind in Azerbaijan, addressing critical questions and providing clarity on the upcoming COP29 conference.

Besides training sessions and workshops on sustainability practices for vendors, state agencies, academia and

business associations, youth engagement and development were also at the focus of capacity-building programs. Training and mentorship programmes, and workshops were organized for the youth from diverse regions of Azerbaijan on the topics related to climate change, green solutions and enhancing youth green skills in collaboration with NGOs and international institutions.



In an effort to promote sustainability and climate awareness, COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company launched educational initiatives targeting young people. On October 23, secondary school students attended sustainability seminars, where they explored climate challenges and individual responsibility. The sessions included interactive games to encourage climate-conscious behaviors.

From August 5 to 9, COP Week at Yay Fest brought together 230 COP29 volunteers in Shamakhi for training sessions,

workshops, and environmental initiatives led by experts. A key session, “In Service of Nature” by IDEA Public Union, emphasized youth responsibility in sustainability. The event aligned with Azerbaijan’s “Year of Solidarity for a Green World”, reinforcing climate education.

Held under the slogan “Together for a Greener Future”, Yay Fest 2024 spans eight camps over two months, welcoming 2,000+ young participants focused on climate action and sustainability. Jointly organized by COP29 Presidency, IDEA Public Union, and youth organizations, it underscores the crucial role of youth in shaping a greener future.

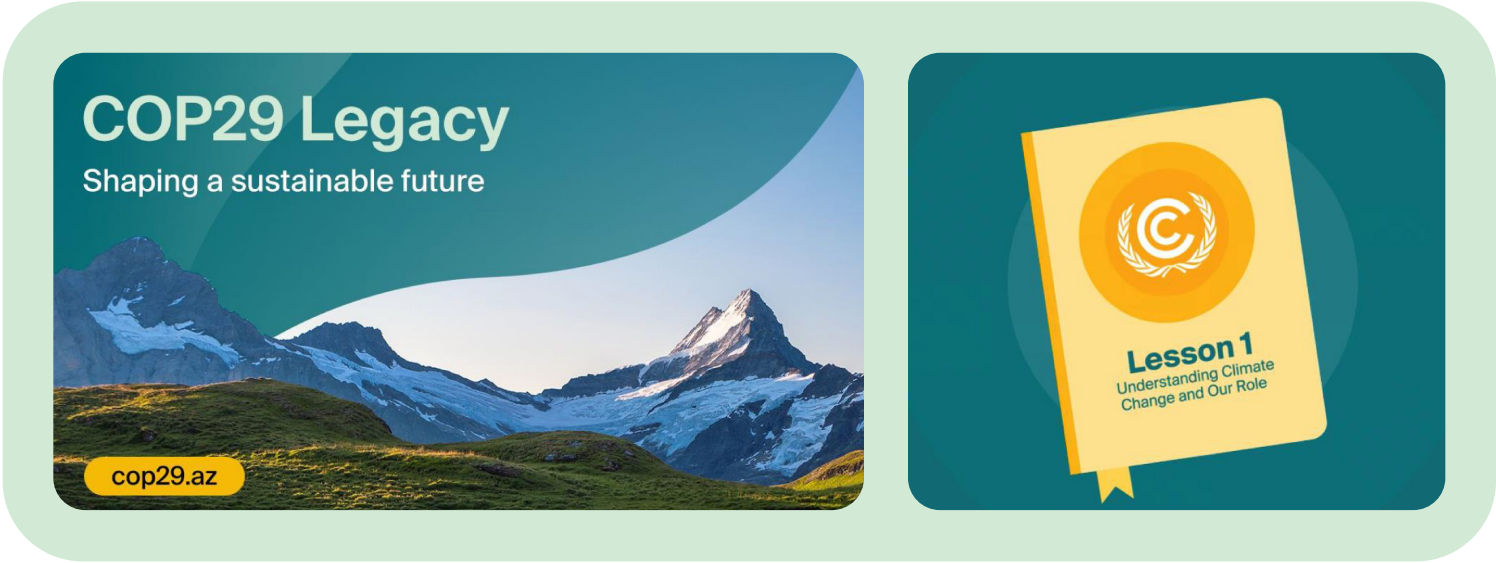
COP29 Legacy Programme

As part of the COP29 Legacy Programme, an online foundational training course was developed to enhance climate literacy and understanding of sustainability issues, particularly within the Azerbaijani context. The course was structured into 4 comprehensive modules, covering key climate change topics through 15 individual lessons. These lessons addressed fundamental concepts of climate change, economic and environmental impacts, climate resilience, sectoral approaches to adaptation and mitigation, and global climate governance processes.

The course placed special emphasis on local climate risks, sustainable agriculture, decarbonization of key sectors, and nature-based climate solutions, ensuring its relevance

to Azerbaijan’s ongoing sustainability journey. It was made available for free online access, allowing broad participation and enabling continuous learning.

For access to the course, please visit:
<https://cop29.az/en/sustainability/cop29-legacy>



2 Corporate pledges – Accelerating the net zero transition

 Azerbaijan National Pledge

As a pillar to support Azerbaijan’s sustainability targets through the engagement of companies from diverse economic sectors, the Azerbaijan National Pledge was developed in the pre-COP period, focusing on

decarbonization, water management, waste reduction, and sustainable land use. The National Pledge plays a key role in capacity-building for the sustainable socio-economic development of Azerbaijan’s public and private sectors through several initiatives. The pledge emphasizes interests of companies to develop transition plans, measure, report and validate progress against sustainability targets, disclose emissions data and reduction plans and enable positive climate action through workforce preparation, collaborations, adoption of sustainable and green instruments across all business operations.

The National Pledge Programme acted as prerequisite for companies interested in participating as COP29 partners under the broader COP29 Partnership Programme. In this framework, a capacity-building workshop was also organized for the interested parties to prepare for the event, involving more than 50 senior representatives from the private sector companies. The initiative set a precedent for several private sector companies to re-assess their sustainability practices and develop strategic goals.

Please rank the following challenges in terms of their importance to your company’s ESG efforts (1 - the most important, 4- the last important).

- 1st Integrating sustainability into core business strategy
- 2nd Allocating sufficient resources and investment
- 3rd Regulatory compliance and evolving standards
- 4th Stakeholder engagement and transparency

COP29 Sustainability knowledge program and CEO breakfast events

The Sustainability Knowledge Program was organized in collaboration with international partner to raise awareness and enhance the current capabilities of organizations from different industries. The program was designed around key sustainability topics and industry-specific issues, as well as the role of public-private sector partnerships in achieving sustainability objectives, as supported by the Azerbaijan National Pledge. A short survey was conducted among the participants to help them better analyze their company’s stance and comprehend the importance of integrating sustainability into corporate strategy.

On a similar chain, COP29 initiated another round of national dialogue as part of a series of consultations with the nation's public and private sector companies to define its Net Zero ambition, aligning with the country's socio-economic development goals. Two CEO Breakfast events were organized to exchange ideas around change management, cross-sector collaboration and sustainable finance. The events successfully raised awareness about the National Pledge, fostering possible collaborations in alignment with expectations arising from the pledge.

National pledges for banking and construction sectors

One of the very first milestones achieved in this regard was the announcement of two national pledges for banking and construction sectors during the event week following months of discussions. The Pledge for the Banking Sector was developed to support green projects and sustainable finance initiatives through green banking products and investment opportunities. A joint commitment of Azerbaijani financial institutions has been made to allocate \$1.2 billion to finance projects for green transition and low-carbon economy by 2030, complementing the green taxonomy approved by the Central Bank of Azerbaijan. To ensure transparency and effective risk management approach, collaborative efforts will be dedicated for enhanced and robust ESG reporting framework and integration of climate-related risks into the banks' risk portfolio.

The pledge is designed for developing local expertise and engaging all relevant stakeholders in the journey.

The Sustainable Built Environment Pledge was designed to drive decarbonization efforts among Azerbaijani construction and building businesses, with a specific focus on addressing challenges around the private sector. The commitments were made to contribute to Azerbaijan's national emission reduction target through decarbonization efforts, emissions reporting, capacity building and increased ambitions, together with the intercompany endeavors on the promotion of sustainable construction practices.

3 Azerbaijan pavilion – Showcasing commitments and climate leadership

Azerbaijan pavilion – Legacy established

Building a green legacy

At COP29, Azerbaijan unveiled the “House of Solidarity”, a pavilion designed to showcase how the nation's culture and climate are deeply interconnected. The pavilion embodied a

powerful message: **“We should act together to fight against the climate crisis.”**

The “House of Solidarity” was more than just a name—it was a call to action, reminding the world that addressing climate change is not an individual effort but a shared mission. The pavilion highlighted the importance of global cooperation, drawing inspiration from Azerbaijan's approach to balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility.



COP 29 Action agenda | Global initiatives

The interactive display highlighted 14 key initiatives of the presidency, each represented by a keyword. The most important keyword, based on popular choice, appeared prominently in the largest size, with daily statistics. This dynamic representation allowed visitors to explore the presidency's efforts and understand the impact of each initiative in shaping a better future, which also resonated with discussions in the meeting room at the Azerbaijani Pavilion.



A dynamic space for global dialogue

The Azerbaijan Pavilion was designed as a hub for collaboration and knowledge exchange, featuring:

Two conference rooms, accommodating 65 and 40 people, designed for high-level discussions and panel sessions.

70+

events bringing together policymakers, experts, and activists to discuss pressing climate issues.

33+

B2B meetings, fostering partnerships and innovative solutions for climate action.

5000+

engaging with the pavilion's exhibits, discussions, and cultural showcases.

Through interactive exhibits, thought-provoking discussions, and strategic meetings, the Azerbaijan Pavilion at COP29 stood as a powerful representation of how climate action is woven into cultural identity. It was an invitation for nations to unite, learn, and collaborate in building a sustainable future for all.



4.5 Transparency and accountability



Transparency and accountability

COP29 maintained a full commitment to transparency and accountability, ensuring these principles were at the heart of all planning, execution, and reporting efforts. This commitment was rooted in maintaining transparent decision-making processes and holding all parties accountable for sustainability commitments, with regular progress reporting to track achievements and identify areas for improvement to ensure full alignment with sustainability goals.

Adherence to the UNFCCC Code of Conduct

A key aspect of this commitment was COP29’s strict adherence to the UNFCCC Code of Conduct, which applied to all staff, vendors, participants, and volunteers. To ensure comprehensive understanding and compliance, COP29 delivered tailored training sessions and informational

briefings covering ethical conduct, human rights, diversity and inclusion, and environmental responsibility.

These efforts ensured that all individuals involved in COP29 understood the importance of upholding high ethical standards, fostering a professional, inclusive, and environmentally responsible environment throughout the event.

UNFCCC Code of Conduct

The UNFCCC Code of Conduct outlines expected behavior for all COP29 participants, with emphasis on:

- Respect for human rights and dignity
- Prevention of harassment, discrimination, and abuse
- Commitment to environmental sustainability
- Transparency and honesty in actions and communications

Sustainability committee and governance

To support the effective delivery of sustainability goals, a Sustainability Committee was established within the Operating Company, with representatives from each department. The committee played a pivotal role in ensuring that sustainability principles were integrated across all operational areas, in line with ISO 20121:2024 requirements.

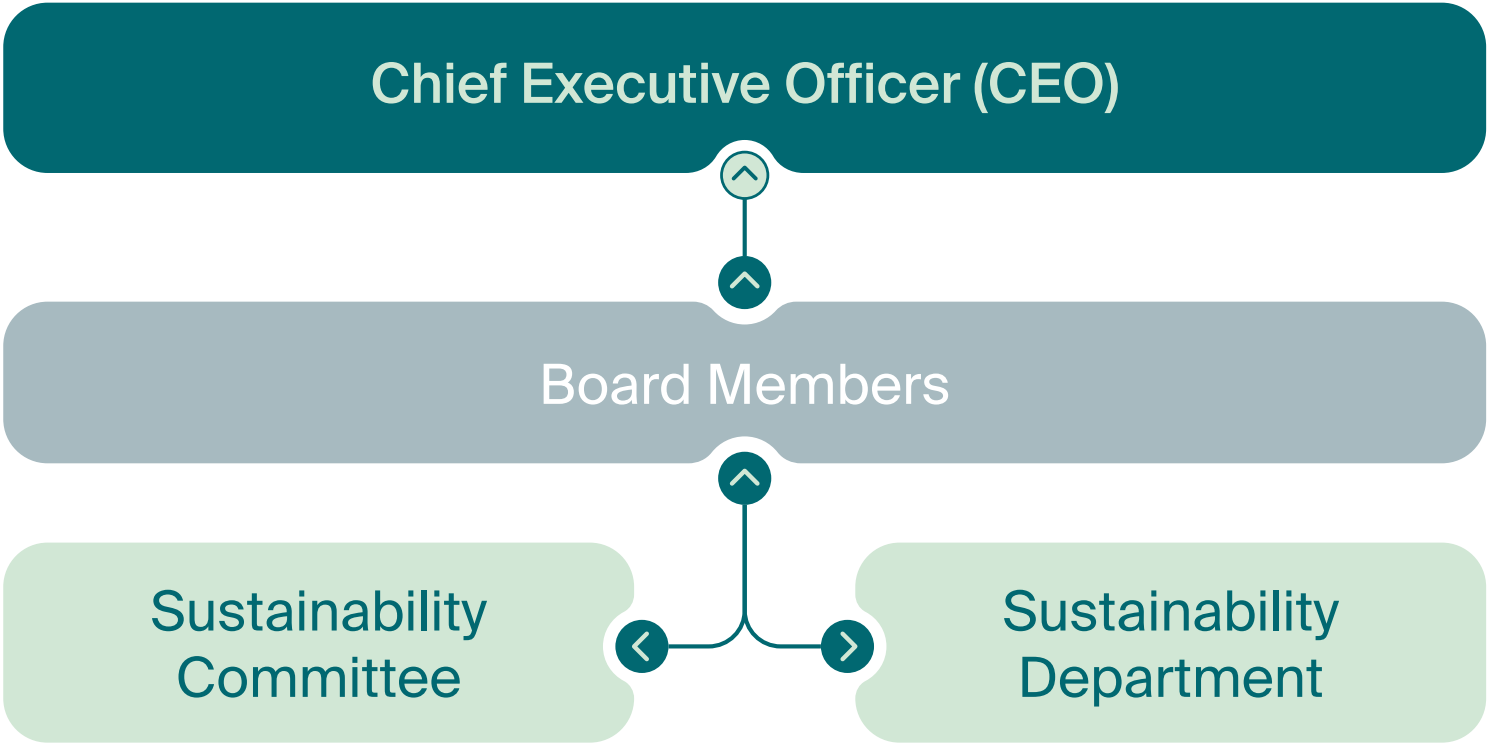
The committee convened monthly meetings, assisted with data collection efforts, and submitted regular reports to the CEO and board, ensuring top-level oversight. This structure promoted cross-departmental collaboration, enabling different functions to align their work with sustainability best practices.

To deliver the event in a transparent, accountable, and well-coordinated manner, a sustainability department was set up with distinct directions:

- Training, capacity building and legacy
- Sustainable operations and assurance
- Inclusivity

The sub-streams enabled clear allocation of responsibilities and accountability frameworks to support timely and effective performance for the event delivery.

The committee’s work not only supported COP29’s operations but also established a benchmark for future large-scale events in Azerbaijan, demonstrating how sustainability governance can be institutionalized for long-term impact.



ISO 20121:2024 Certification – A first for Azerbaijan

A landmark achievement for COP29 was obtaining ISO 20121:2024 certification, marking the first time any event in Azerbaijan has received this prestigious global standard for sustainable event management. This certification highlighted COP29’s commitment to responsible event planning, delivery, and post-event evaluation, embedding sustainability at every stage.

The certification process, independently verified by a third-party organization, assessed the event’s sustainability strategy across multiple dimensions and confirmed adherence to global practices.

All documents, policies, and initiatives developed by the COP29 AOC are publicly shared on COP29 web platforms,

providing a holistic understanding of the company’s operating principles. The COP29 Sustainability Policy¹, published on the official website, offers a structured framework for stakeholders to evaluate the event’s sustainability approach, vision, and commitments through established KPIs and targets aligned with current sustainability developments and climate challenges.



Recurrent monitoring and audits were conducted before, during, and after COP29, evaluating the event’s sustainability performance and tracking progress toward objectives. To ensure complete assurance over performance and achieve certification, a third-party verification was conducted through

a three-phase audit process, consisting of inspections before, during, and after the event. The audit process reviewed stakeholder engagement, resource conservation, emissions reduction, and responsible supply chain management.

This was complemented by targeted training for all employees on the ISO certification process, ensuring that the certification covered all relevant activities and confirmed adherence to sustainability measures.

Additionally, preparation of the Sustainability Report within a short period of time following the conclusion of the event underscores the Azerbaijan Operating Company’s continued commitment to transparency and accountability.

What ISO 20121 Covers? ISO 20121 is the international standard for sustainable event management, covering:

- Sustainability leadership and governance
- Stakeholder consultation and engagement
- Resource efficiency and waste reduction
- Delivering positive community impacts
- Monitoring and continuous improvement

Transparency and Feedback Mechanisms

As part of COP29’s commitment to full transparency, a dedicated email channel was established allowing all participants and stakeholders to raise any sustainability-related queries and concerns. The open feedback loop enabled real-time identification and resolution of issues promptly, ensuring the event aligned well with expectations and quality standards.

As a direct result of feedback mechanism, several on-site adjustments were made, including the expansion of vegan and plant-based food options at COP29 venues; highlighting the Operating Company’s commitment to build trust.



4.6 Collaboration and Partnerships

Partnerships and Collaborations

COP29 served as a platform for fostering **collaborations, partnerships and innovative solutions**, that accelerate global climate action. By bringing together key stakeholders from various industries, the event enabled meaningful engagement between governments, corporations, financial institutions, technology providers, and media organizations. The Partnership Committee played a crucial role in ensuring that all corporate collaborations aligned with sustainability criteria, encouraging local companies to participate and international partners to commit to Net Zero through Science-Based Targets initiatives.

Throughout the conference, 18 Official Partners spanning diverse sectors—including energy transition, technology, finance, logistics, media, and sustainable textiles—showcased their commitments to sustainability through strategic initiatives, milestone achievements, and ambitious climate pledges. Major corporate partners, such as GilTEX,

NIO, ACWA Power, Cisco, ABB, and SOCAR Green, played pivotal roles in advancing the COP29 sustainability agenda, while media partners—including Baku Media Center, Financial Times, Project Syndicate, Newsweek, CBC amplified critical climate conversations on a global scale. The Green Zone provided an interactive space where partners engaged in dialogues, hosted high-impact events, and formed new collaborations, further reinforcing COP29’s legacy as a catalyst for sustainable transformation.

18 Official partners from diverse sectors

Energy and transition

Impact and sustainable growth

Logistic and transportation

Technology and banking



Telecommunications



Media



Other



Textile Sector

GiLTEX, a leading Azerbaijani textile manufacturer adhering to sustainable production methods and using locally sourced cotton, served as the Official Textile Partner for COP29. The company provided its environmentally conscious textiles for all staff, volunteers, contractors, security and other personnel and showcased its product range in the Green Zone.

GiLTEX's commitment to sustainability is demonstrated by its internationally recognized certifications, including ISO 9001:2015 for quality management, ISO 14001:2015 for environmental compliance, and ISO 45001:2018 for occupational health and safety. These are complemented by the internationally recognized sustainability standards, such as OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and AITEX certifications, ensuring the safety and sustainability of its products.

In addition to their logistical contributions, GiLTEX and its parent company, GP Cotton, played an active role in shaping discussions at COP29, organizing a series of impactful events in both the Blue and Green Zones. On November 14, 2024, they hosted the panel discussion “Better Cotton,” featuring notable speakers such as Majnun Mammadov, Azerbaijan's Minister of Agriculture, and Yanniss Bellinghausen, Director of Standards at the Better Cotton Initiative. This event focused on the adoption of sustainable cotton farming

practices, emphasizing their environmental and socio-economic benefits. Expanding on broader sustainability themes, the company also convened the “Sustainable Livestock Practices” panel on November 16, with expert insights from Tara McCarthy, Global Vice President for ESG at Alltech, followed by “Efficient Water Use” on November 19, led by Kamran Aghasi, CEO of GiLTEX. These discussions underscored company's commitment to addressing critical environmental challenges within the textile industry and beyond.



Recognizing the vital role of sustainable agricultural practices in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, these dialogues took on even greater significance in the context of Azerbaijan, where agriculture is a key sector for livelihoods, and a significant source of GHG emissions.

 Banking sector

The International Bank of Azerbaijan (IBA), also known as ABB, served as the Principal Banking Partner for COP29. ABB has been publishing its Sustainability Report on the website since 2022. With its headquarters in Baku and a network of more than 80 branches serving over 2.6 million customers, ABB is recognized as a leading financial institution in the South Caucasus region.

ABB's designation as the Principal Banking Partner underscored its dedication to advancing sustainable finance initiatives and promotion of sustainable lending products. In preparation for COP29, ABB took on new initiatives on supporting the SMEs in showcasing their sustainability endeavors through resource and guidance provision.

During COP29, ABB highlighted its efforts in addressing the climate finance gap by raising over 100 million AZN in sustainable loans and developing a project pipeline worth hundreds of millions of AZN, focusing on initiatives that promote environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

The Bank played a key role in discussions on climate finance, a central theme of the conference, bringing together stakeholders from the finance and investment sectors to explore solutions for funding climate action.

ABB hosted several events in Green Zone on green fintech, digitalization and partnerships, focusing on the transformative power of green financial technology and climate-focused innovations.



 Technology sector

Cisco served as the Principal Technology Partner, delivering a secure, high-bandwidth network that was both fast and energy-efficient. Cisco's Customer Experience team collaborated closely with the COP29 ICT department to

design and implement the network infrastructure within a challenging three-month timeframe. This infrastructure supported seamless communications for nearly 190 countries and over 550,000 attendees, and everything from media and IPTV to audio/visual experiences and interpretation hubs, with more than 2,000 wireless connections per day.

Cisco not only provided critical technological infrastructure but also actively engaged in events that underscored its commitment to sustainability and digital innovation. Cisco co-hosted a panel session titled “Empowering Youth for a Digital Climate Revolution” in the Green Zone. This event underscored the pivotal role of young people as catalysts for change, focusing on how digital solutions can drive climate action. The discussion addressed various topics, including progress on decarbonization commitments, the corporate sector's responsibility in ensuring sustainability, leveraging green fintech and climate technology to bridge the climate finance gap, and achieving financial inclusion through digital advancements.

Through its active participation, Cisco demonstrated its commitment to leveraging technology for a sustainable future, aligning with COP29's overarching mission to address climate change through innovative and responsible practices. On a global scale Cisco offers a range of products and solutions designed to support sustainability through optimized performance, reduced energy usage and minimized environmental impact.

COP29 key partners and achievements

SOCAR Green: Energy Transition Partner

As the **Energy Transition Partner** for COP29 in Baku, SOCAR Green, a subsidiary of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), played a critical role in advancing sustainable energy solutions at the conference. A key initiative was the integration of **hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO)** to power significant portions of Baku Stadium, the main venue for COP29. This low-carbon biofuel, derived from renewable sources, not only reduces GHG emissions but also diminishes pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), and sulfur oxides (SOx), thereby enhancing air quality in and around the venue. In collaboration with the COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company, SOCAR Green ensured the procurement of the necessary volumes of HVO to sustainably power the event space. Notably, this marked the first time HVO was used on such a large scale in Azerbaijan and in the history of COPs, setting an important precedent for future climate conferences and major international events to adopt similar sustainable energy solutions.

SOCAR Green actively advanced Azerbaijan's renewable energy agenda through strategic partnerships and initiatives. Notably, the company signed Memorandums of Understanding with **PowerChina** to explore collaborative opportunities for developing renewable energy projects, with **ACWA Power** on the development of 3.5 GW of offshore wind projects, and with **SLB** (formerly Schlumberger) to jointly explore Azerbaijan's geothermal energy potential.

Through these initiatives, SOCAR Green not only contributed to the COP29 net-zero commitments but also played a vital role in advancing Azerbaijan's national climate goals, particularly the target of increasing the share of renewable energy to 30% by 2030.

ACWA Power: Energy & Water Partner

ACWA Power, a Saudi-based developer and operator of power generation and water desalination plants, marked a significant milestone at COP29 by announcing the financial close of the 240MW Absheron-Khizi Wind Farm in Azerbaijan. Valued at USD 238 million, this project stands out as the first international investment-based independent wind power initiative in Azerbaijan and the largest in the Caucasus region.



During COP29, ACWA Power announced the financial close of the Absheron-Khizi Wind Farm project.

NIO: COP29 Green Car Park Partner

NIO, a Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer, played an important role at COP29 by offering premium mobility services to heads of state, government officials, and distinguished guests. As a member of the Green Car Park initiative, NIO provided models such as the EL8, ET7 and EL6, delivering smart, comfortable, and environmentally friendly transportation solutions that perfectly aligned with the conference's vision for a low-carbon event.



Innovative digital solutions at COP29: Enhancing spectrum management and real-time media coverage

The COP29 Radio Spectrum Management Portal showcased a groundbreaking approach to registering radio-electronic equipment and allocating temporary radio spectrum during the event. By streamlining complex processes, the portal efficiently registered 838 individuals, with 552 approvals, setting a new benchmark for managing radio spectrum resources at global events. This centralized platform not only facilitated participant registration and spectrum requests but also enabled real-time tracking, ensuring that only accredited media had access. The system significantly improved operational coordination and technological integration, contributing to a seamless conference experience.

Additionally, it provided a collaborative space for internal teams and stakeholders to track approvals, respond to inquiries, and enhance communication, making the management process more efficient and transparent.

Furthermore, for the first time at COP, sustainability videos from the Host Country were showcased in the side event rooms and the UNFCCC pavilion, demonstrating a new innovation and the strength of collaboration in integrating local environmental initiatives into the global climate dialogue.



WIRELESS DEVICES USAGE AND CONTROL DURING COP29

List of equipment authorized in Blue and Green Zones with a tag

Land Mobile

Walkie-talkie

Wireless In-ear Monitor

Wireless Videocamera

Talkback Systems/ Intercom

Wireless Photo Camera

Satellite

Radio Telemetry Systems

List of prohibited radio-electronic equipment in Blue and Green Zones

WiFi

WiFi

Drone

Signal Repeaters and Amplifiers

Radio Monitoring and Control Devices

NOTE: Various radio-electronic devices operating in frequency bands not designated for Region 1 (first frequency region) according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations, including handheld radio stations.

List of equipment authorized in Blue and Green Zones without a tag

PC/Laptop

Smartphones/ Tablets

Photo Camera

Headsets

USB Drive

All time

Photos



Photostream



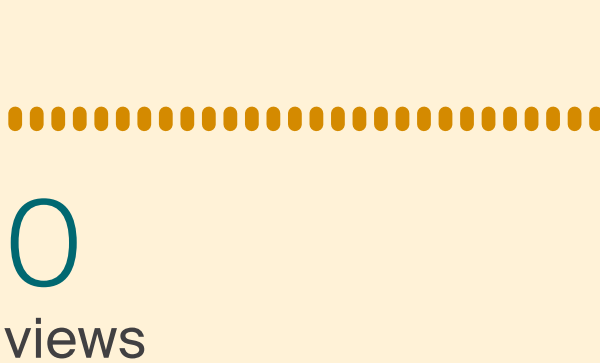
Albums



Collections



Galleries



Total



These technological advancements were complemented by COP29’s instant global engagement through realtime media coverage at the Leaders’ Summit. Just four minutes after each handshake, photos were uploaded to Flickr, ensuring that key moments were available to a worldwide audience almost immediately. Flickr served as the primary platform for organizing, categorizing, and distributing high-quality images, making them easily accessible to media, event participants, sponsors, and the public. Its curated galleries highlighted keynote speeches, panel discussions, sustainability initiatives,

and networking sessions, promoting accessibility and engagement. This efficient media strategy ensured that COP29’s visual assets remained impactful beyond the event itself, supporting long-term communication efforts.

Through innovative digital solutions, COP29 successfully integrated advanced spectrum management and real-time media dissemination, enhancing both event operations and global outreach.

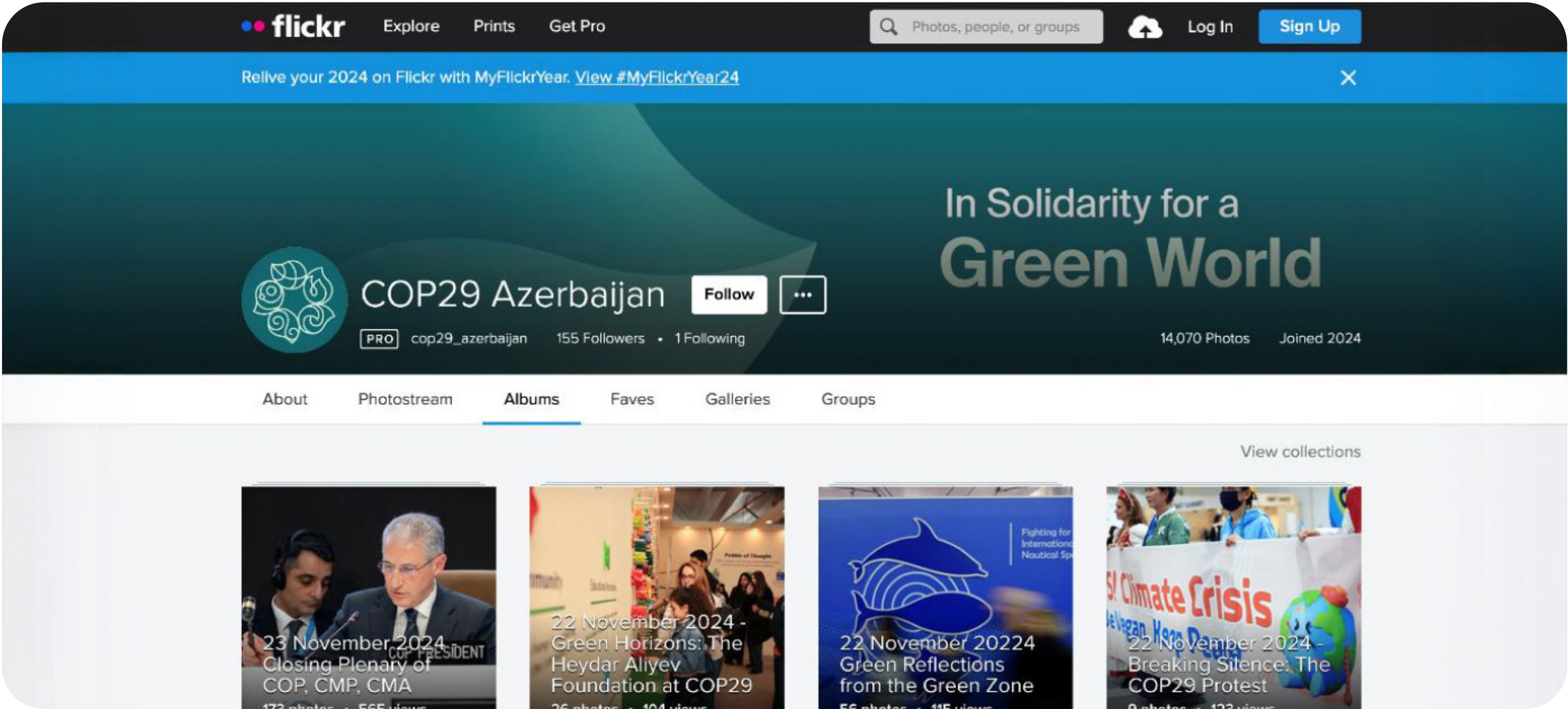
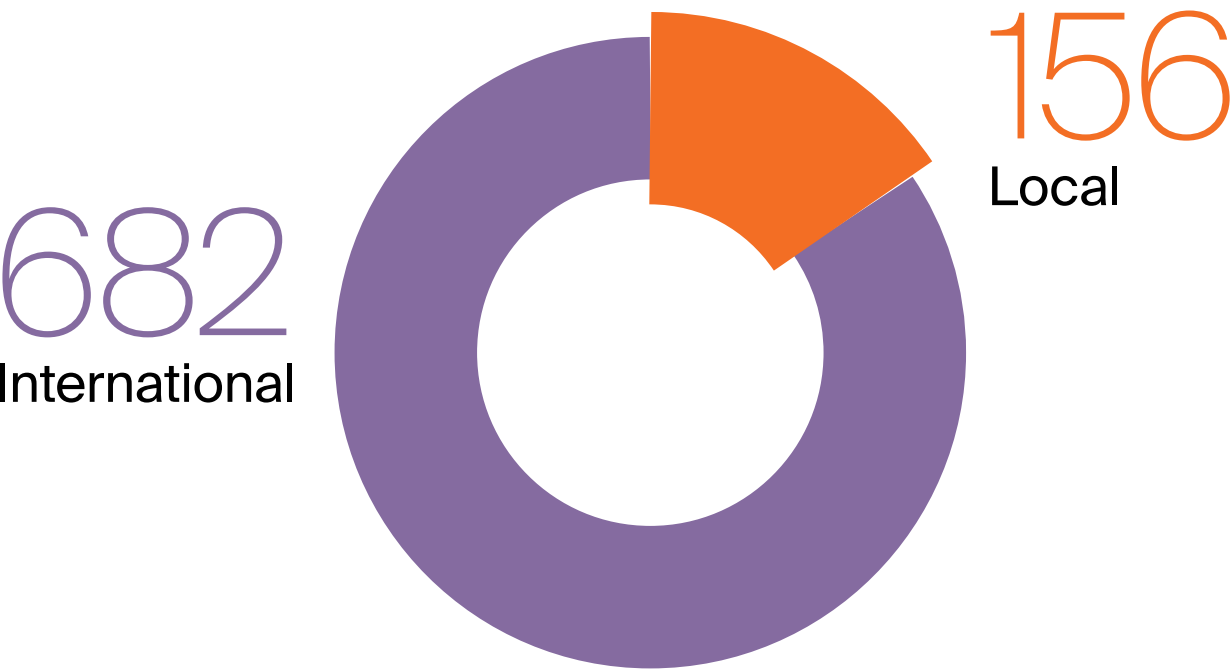


Figure 22. Approvals/rejections
COP29 Radio Spectrum management
portal approved/rejected accounts radio



Figure 23. Registrations
COP29 Radio Spectrum management
portal registered accounts breakdown



COP29 Daily Show: A global broadcast bringing climate conversations to the world

The COP29 Daily Show, a collaborative initiative between COP29 and Hi Impact, was broadcast live from Baku, Azerbaijan, starting on 11th November. This 30-minute daily program provided a dynamic and insightful summary of each day's events at COP29, featuring world leaders, scientists, community voices, and industry pioneers.

All twelve episodes were made freely accessible to a global audience through syndication with 47 TV stations, including national broadcasters across four continents. The episodes were also uploaded daily to COP29's official YouTube and social media channels for later viewing.



Produced in partnership with Hi Impact, a globally recognized communications agency, the show was designed to enhance global inclusion, enabling international audiences to engage with the event remotely. Filmed in a purpose-built studio in the Green Zone, it was hosted by Rosanna Lockwood, a journalist with extensive experience in news and interview programs across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

The show featured a diverse lineup of guests and YouTube climate creators as guest reporters, helping to reach younger audiences who might not engage with traditional media. Its unique format and engaging tone aimed to break down barriers and make the climate change discussion more relatable and accessible to a wider audience.



The Official COP29 Daily Show, Episode 11

Watch the official COP29 Daily Show, broadcast in partnership with Hi Impact. Featuring diplomat Maria Espinosa and the WWF's Stephen Cornelius as well as highlights from the conference floor and explainers on what is really happening at COP, it will be the place to find out what is going on throughout COP29.



COP29: High impact events

Title	Theme	Speakers
Net Zero Carbon COP29: Partnerships for Sustainability	As a continuation of net zero discussions, an event was organized around collaborative efforts of stakeholders and partners from Azerbaijan and around the world in advancing COP29’s sustainability initiatives. The session focused on measures such as waste management, renewable energy solutions,eco-friendly mobility,GHG emission management, and achieving a net-zero carbon event. It showcased how these efforts contribute to a greener, more resource-efficient event and emphasized COP29’s potential to set a lasting precedent for sustainable practices at major international gatherings. 	• COP29 Chief Sustainability Advisor - Marina Olshanskaya • Advisor to the President of “Azerenerji” OJSC - Rustam Gasimov • Co-Founder and CEO of CarbonClick - Dave Rouse • Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board of “Tamiz Shahr” OJSC - Sabit Zeyniyev • Coordination Board Member - Ayan Najaf.
Corporate Sustainability and Climate Action	The emphasis of the discussions was around the pivotal role of businesses in driving climate mitigation and aligning with global net-zero goals. It explored how the private sector’s adoption of sustainability as a core business strategy accelerated global climate efforts. Discussions highlighted transitions to low-carbon operations, sustainable supply chains, and advancements in green technology, showcasing exemplary corporate commitments in Azerbaijan and globally. By presenting successful strategies and partnerships, the event inspired businesses to integrate sustainability into their operations, demonstrating the private sector’s leadership in fostering a more sustainable future while ensuring long-term economic resilience. 	• Chairman of GreenTech, President of Qarabagh FC, and President and Founder of the Initiative for Development (TGID) - Tahir Gozal • Leader of Climate, Sustainability, and Equity at Deloitte Brazil - Maria Peres • Deputy Chairman of the Management Board, Board Member, and Chief Transformation Officer of Bank ABB - Taleh Tahirli • CEO of Spiro, Africa’s major EV manufacturer - Kaushik Burman

Title	Theme	Speakers
Climate Justice and Equity	The event highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, including low-income communities, indigenous groups, women, and youth. Through personal stories and insights from climate experts, it emphasized the urgent need for equitable and inclusive climate policies. 	• Executive Managing Director of CGIAR - Dr. Ismahane Elouafi • Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) for COP29 - Leyla Hasanova • Director of Climate Analytics Caribbean - Rueanna Haynes • Vice Chair of IPCC Working Group II - Dr. Adelle Thomas • Board Projects Rhenus Group, Project Lead Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia - Dr. Alexandra Ogneva
Climate Finance Landscape in South Caucasus and Central Asia	The session explored the current state and future potential of climate finance in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. It focused on sustainable investment, public-private partnerships, and international collaboration, highlighting financial mechanisms to support climate resilience and adaptation. Experts and policymakers discussed challenges, regional priorities and strategies for increasing financial flows to advance climate action in these regions. 	• Deputy CEO of PASHA Bank - Bahruz Naghiyev • Regional Director for the South Caucasus at The World Bank - Rolande Pryce • Executive Officer and Director General of the Sustainability Management Department at Japan Bank for International Cooperation - Hiroko Yano • CEO of the AIFC Green Finance Centre - Manas Gizhduaniyev

Title	Theme	Speakers
Roadmap to Net Zero: Building Sustainable Energy Systems	Discussing the global energy transition toward net-zero emissions, the session focused on Paris Accord targets and how industries are adopting new energy models, investments in green technologies, and addressing economic challenges like infrastructure investment and policy reforms. It emphasized the importance of a just transition, ensuring no communities are left behind while supporting job creation, community resilience, and access to clean energy, particularly in developing regions. Speakers highlighted inclusive strategies to address energy access, affordability, and the socio-economic impacts of the transition, underscoring its role in achieving a net-zero future. 	- State Secretary for Decarbonization, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Moldova - Carolina Novac - Chief Executive Officer of COP29, Deputy Energy Minister of Azerbaijan - Elnur Soltanov - General Director of SOCAR Green - Elmir Musayev - Ambassador at Large for Climate, Ministry of Energy, Hungary - Dr. Barbara Botos
Empowering Youth for a Digital Climate Revolution	The event explored how digital solutions drive climate action, highlighting youth as key innovators leveraging technology to advocate for sustainability, monitor environmental impacts and scale up initiatives. It showcased AI-driven tools, apps, and platforms empowering youth in data advocacy and real-time monitoring, with insights from young innovators, climate tech experts and policymakers collaborating to harness technology for climate change solutions. 	- Presidency Youth Climate Champion - Leyla Hasanova - SVP and Chief Sustainability Officer at Cisco - Mary De Wysocki - CEO and Founder of BeWorks Automation - Fidan Javadova - Conservationist and WAFF Youth Delegate - Doreen Michael - Representative of Lithuania at the European Economic and Social Comittee - Kęstutis Kupšys,

Title	Theme		Speakers
Raising Human Capital for Green Future	Speakers discussed the critical role of education and leadership in fostering sustainable development, focusing on enhancing human capacity to address climate challenges and drive green innovation. The panelists highlighted the importance of equipping future generations with the relevant environmental awareness to address climate change challenges. The consensus was that by prioritizing education, young people can be enabled to contribute to a sustainable future.		• President of Finland (2000–2012) - Tarja Halonen • Head of NEQSOL Holding Azerbaijan - Imran Ahmadzada • UNICEF's Regional Advisor on Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia - Maria Osbeck • Member of Parliament, Vice Rector at ADA University, and Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy - Fariz Ismailzade
Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism: Innovative Solutions and Way Forward	Focusing on the innovative strategies to accelerate climate action within the tourism sector, the session focused on addressing climate challenges and promoting sustainable tourism practices globally.		• Head of Division, Department of Tourism Policy and Strategy, State Tourism Agency of Azerbaijan - Gunay Bayramova • Head of the International Relations Department, Ministry of Tourism, Brazil - Heitor Kadri • Global Sustainability Director at Iberostar Group - Erika Harms • Chief Sustainability Officer at The Travel Corporation - Shannon Guihan • Climate Change Operations Senior Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank - Amy Lewis

Title	Theme	Speakers
SIDS' Ecosystems and Communities Amid Climate Change	The session focused on the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the face of climate change, emphasizing the importance of global partnerships and innovative solutions to protect fragile ecosystems and communities. 	• The Commonwealth Secretary-General - The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Baroness Scotland of Asthal • Minister for Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment of Tuvalu - H.E. Dr. Maina Talia • Director of the Global Risks and Resilience Programme at ODI Global - Dr. Rebecca Nadi • Advisor at the Mission of Palau to the United Nations - Angelique Pouponneau • Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan - Murad Jamalov • Climate advocate and Vanuatu's COP29 Special Envoy - Ali Serim
Building Tomorrow: The Legacy of COP29 in Azerbaijan and in the World	The event explored the lasting impact of COP29 and its role in shaping a sustainable future. The session focused on the key initiatives and outcomes that will define Azerbaijan's contribution to global climate action. 	• Member of the COP29 Organizing Committee and Secretary-General of the Azerbaijan National Confederation of Employers and Entrepreneurs Organizations - Natavan Mammadova • Chief Executive of GLOBE Legislators - Malini Mehra • Director of the UNDP's Sustainable Finance Hub - Marcos Neto • Executive Director of the Azerbaijan Textile Association - Farida Akhundova • Head of COP29 Legacy Initiatives - Jeyhun Atayev

Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

COP29 was made possible through the collaboration of government bodies, international organizations, private sector partners, and civil society. Stakeholder engagement was central to planning and operations, with active coordination among suppliers, contractors, and partners to align with sustainability objectives.

To ensure effective collaboration, COP29 conducted extensive consultations with government agencies to align sustainability priorities with national policies and international commitments. Surveys distributed to representatives from ministries, regulatory bodies, and other organizations gathered insights into sustainability awareness, governance challenges, and capacity needs. These engagements provided a critical foundation for shaping COP29's strategic framework and informed targeted initiatives. A stakeholder mapping process further supported inclusive decision-making, identifying key actors across sectors and fostering stronger partnerships between public and private stakeholders through robust capacity-building efforts.



The COP29 AOC implemented a comprehensive training and capacity-building program to strengthen sponsors' sustainability competencies in line with global climate goals. One key initiative was the Sponsors Training on Climate Strategy, which focused on energy and resource efficiency. The session offered guidance on developing effective climate strategies, addressing topics such as investor pressure, the rise of ESG ratings, evolving customer expectations, growing environmental awareness, and stakeholder demands.

For effective collaboration and consultation processes, direct communication channels, including regular meetings and questionnaires, were maintained in preparation for and during the event. These multi-stakeholder efforts emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in addressing global climate challenges and driving long-term, impactful solutions.



4.7 Safety for All

Safety for All

Considering the expansive scale of COP29, ensuring safety and security was among the top priorities during the organization and operationalization of the event. A specific health and safety protocol was provided, including safety training, access to safety equipment, and measures to protect workers from potential hazards. All employees, volunteers and vendors (100%) were trained in safety protocols, with only the number of volunteers exceeding 3,000. The fire safety and emergency management systems at COP29 were marked by meticulous planning and execution, ensuring the safety and seamless operation of the event. Comprehensive measures included real-time monitoring of venues, routine safety inspections and coordination with various departments to integrate fire safety protocols into overall event planning. From food safety measures to secure digital connectivity, every aspect was systematically organized to adhere to defined standards and ensure the efficient management of the event.

Safety facilities at COP29 Venue



Emergency management

Efforts to achieve efficient emergency management resulted in the swift resolution of over 50 safety issues, with an average resolution time of 10 minutes, ensuring uninterrupted operations. The creation of detailed safety logs and incident reports enabled post-event analysis, promoting transparency and continuous improvement. Training sessions for staff and volunteers constituted a crucial element, augmenting awareness and preparedness, thereby fostering a secure and efficient environment throughout the event.

Fire safety

COP29 achieved significant milestones in fire safety, including smooth event operations with no major incidents, efficient use of fire protection resources and comprehensive training for all personnel involved. Routine inspections and risk assessments were regularly conducted at event venues, ensuring compliance with fire safety regulations and operational safety standards. Primary fire extinguishing means were utilized and supplied in close proximity to the key points across the venue, effectively managing small-scale incidents with no reliance on external fire trucks or major disruptions.

A centralized 24/7 “Double Check” system was established, allowing parallel monitoring by the HSE department of the Company and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan and providing rapid response capabilities. The fire trucks were operative 24/7 and located at the venue entrances. By employing this proactive approach, the event maintained a fire-free environment and effectively managed over 10 fire-related issues solely via the implementation of internal resources.



Digital Safety

Beyond ensuring the physical conditions for safe experience, COP29 was equally dedicated to maintaining digital safety. A significant share of activities was covered with digital platforms with advanced cybersecurity measures to protect data, systems and users from unauthorized access, with initiatives such as regular audits, data encryption, as well as strong protocols for managing digital identities. Training and awareness programs were also provided to promote best practices in digital safety, ensuring the protection of personal information and the overall digital infrastructure of the event.



Food safety and sustainability training sessions

The COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company conducted a training program focused on enhancing the safety and sustainability competencies of local hotels. The “Food Safety - Level 2” training, led by the company’s food safety expert was delivered at hotels in Baku. This initiative aimed at bolstering the hotels’ competencies in food safety, ensuring they meet the highest international standards.

The localized training program, based on the fundamental principles of International Food Safety requirements and standards, was approved by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). The objective of the program was to ensure that visitors attending COP29 experience catering and hospitality that adhere to the highest food safety standards.

The training content covered all critical aspects of food safety, focusing on best practices in food preparation and distribution, strict hygiene regulations, the personal responsibility among service industry employees. Participants also received in-depth guidance on effective preventive and control measures, safe storage practices, and other topics related to food safety.



ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety management certification

In a significant step towards ensuring a safe, healthy, and sustainable work environment, the COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company has been awarded the internationally recognized ISO 45001 certification for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS).



As the globally recognized standard ensuring safe working conditions, ISO 45001 helps establish a structured approach to risk management, integrate sustainability into operations and reinforce social responsibility for the operationalization of events of such scale. Bringing together thousands of participants across the world as well as the staff to support the operationalization of the event, ensuring health and safety of all was key to the successful organization of COP29.

From heightened measures for risk management to emergency preparedness and response, the standard illustrates how sustainability was embedded in event planning and delivery. With regular audits, reviews and feedback mechanisms, the standard paves the way for continuous improvement and performance monitoring.

The dedication to maintain the highest standards of health and safety in alignment with the ISO 45001 standard was embedded in the sustainability commitments as well. From ensuring fully accessible and inclusive event to the establishment of collaborations with diverse stakeholders, health and safety constituted one of the key metrics of the event organization. This was widely reflected in the 7th commitment as defined in the Sustainability Policy.



05. Lessons learned



5. Lessons learned

Early planning for net-zero events is essential:



- Sustainability must be embedded from the outset, with a clear roadmap to net zero.
- Measures such as green electricity, biofuel and sustainable transport options must be identified and implemented early in the planning phase.
- Delayed sustainability actions lead to missed opportunities and increased emissions.

Training and engagement are key:



- Sustainability is only as effective as the people implementing it.
- Vendors, staff and partners need consistent and structured training on sustainability practices.
- Awareness programs ensure all stakeholders understand their role in reducing the event's footprint.

Sustainable sourcing needs early integration:



- Sustainability requirements for all sourced products must be embedded in procurement guidelines from the beginning.
- Without clear sustainability criteria, suppliers may default to conventional, high-impact options.

Local sourcing strengthens sustainability:



- Local procurement of food, materials, and services reduces transportation emissions and supports the local economy.
- Events that prioritize locally sourced items also enhance cultural and community engagement.

Sustainability policy and goals must be defined early:



- Establishing clear sustainability policies at the planning stage ensures they are integrated into all processes and decision-making.
- A lack of early policy guidance can lead to fragmented efforts and inconsistent sustainability measures.

Partnerships are critical for sustainable events:



- Collaboration with hotels, restaurants, transport companies, waste management providers and energy suppliers is essential. No single entity can deliver a sustainable event alone!