



LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Practice-Oriented Learning at the "Chernorud" Research Base

Students from the School of Subsurface Resource Management gain direct, hands-on experience in sustainable land use at the university's ["Chernorud" educational and scientific base](#) near Olkhon Island. This is an integral part of their curriculum where they master skills in geo-ecological surveying, assessing anthropogenic impact on landscapes, and studying fragile steppe and coastal ecosystems of Lake Baikal. This practice directly translates theoretical knowledge of ecology and resource management into action, fostering a generation of specialists who prioritize ecosystem conservation in their future professional activities.



Nurturing Future Environmental Specialists through "Mendeleev Classes"

INRTU is a key regional partner in the federal educational project "[Mendeleev Classes](#)" launched by the Russian Chemical-Technological University and the Rosatom State Corporation. This project is designed to form a talent pool for the chemical industry and environmental protection.



The curriculum emphasizes chemistry and applied aspects of environmental safety, waste management, and land rehabilitation technologies, directly contributing to educational capacity building for SDG 15.

RESEARCH

INRTU's research activities related to SDG 15 encompass ecosystem monitoring, the development of environmental technologies, interdisciplinary projects, and active publication work.

4 publications on SDG 15 in Scopus in 2024

Applied Research for Solving a Problem: Baikal Pulp Mill Waste

Scientists from the Laboratory of Environmental Monitoring of Natural and Technogenic Environments at INRTU are [engaged in complex, applied research](#) in partnership with the "Baikal Strategies" expert club. Their collaborative work focuses on developing and assessing technologies for processing and neutralizing legacy waste from the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM). This research addresses one of the most pressing environmental challenges in the Baikal region, aiming to prevent further contamination of soil and nearby lake ecosystems.



National Platform for Knowledge Exchange: "Technosphere Safety" Conference

The University hosts the major [All-Russian Scientific and Technical Conference "Technosphere Safety"](#), which annually brings together hundreds of master's students, postgraduates, and young scientists from across Russia. The conference serves as a crucial national platform for discussing current research in environmental protection, industrial ecology, emergency prevention, and sustainable land management.

In 2024, the event focused on contemporary challenges in ensuring ecological safety, fostering a collaborative research environment to advance the scientific foundations for SDG 15.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

INRTU actively interacts with the local community, businesses, and authorities, implementing and supporting projects aimed at preserving biodiversity and promoting environmental education.

Environmental Campaign "Ecodvor" on Campus

A prime example of direct community involvement is the ["Ecodvor" environmental campaign](#) organized on the university campus. In this single event, [over 300 kilograms](#) of secondary raw materials were collected from students and staff for proper disposal and recycling. This campaign not only had a tangible environmental impact but also served as a powerful educational tool, promoting the practice of separate waste collection and responsible consumption within the university community.

Strategic Partnership in the "Baikal Without Plastic" Association

INRTU's expertise is formally recognized at the regional level. A professor from the university was elected Co-Chair of the Science Committee of the ["Baikal Without Plastic" Association](#). This position underscores INRTU's leading role as a scientific and expert partner in a major regional environmental coalition.



The university provides the association with research-based insights and methodologies, ensuring that initiatives to combat plastic pollution and protect the Baikal ecosystem are grounded in solid science.

OPERATIONS

The principles of sustainable development, including SDG 15, are integrated into the university's daily management practices, creating an environmentally friendly and comfortable environment for students and staff.

Formalized Policy and Infrastructure for Sustainable Waste Management

INRTU has institutionalized its commitment to SDG 15 through the implementation of an internal policy on waste management. The policy mandates sorting, disposal, and the use of recycled materials. This is supported by tangible infrastructure: containers for separate waste collection are installed throughout the campus.

The "ECODVOR" event collected about 280 kg of waste:

- **waste paper (231 kg)**
- **metal (1 kg)**
- **batteries (48 kg)**

Fostering Environmental Identity through Cultural Initiatives

The university administration actively supports student-led initiatives that foster a connection with the local environment. The Student Media Center organized the creative competition-exhibition "[My Land – My Siberia](#)".



This event encouraged students to artistically and intellectually explore the natural and cultural heritage of Siberia, strengthening their emotional and intellectual bond with their native ecosystems. Such initiatives cultivate a sense of environmental stewardship and identity within the student body.