



2024
Sustainability Report
SDG 12



**RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND
CONSUMPTION**

LETTER FROM THE REPORT RECTOR



Ege University is a leading university, an example of the Turkish higher education system, which has received Turkey's first Institutional Full Accreditation Certificate and has the identity of a Student-Focused Research University.

Our University, with its 69-year deep-rooted history, strong academic staff, qualified scientific studies, distinguished students, and graduates, is to make a supreme effort to build a solid future for new generations by being sensitive to the realities of the world, our country and the society we live in. Ege University is a strong research institution with an entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem where R&D, innovation, knowledge, and technology transfer take place between industry and university.

Ege University has adopted all the goals of eliminating inequalities, strengthening economic growth and employment, improving cities and residential areas, ensuring industrialization, protecting oceans and ecosystems, producing and consuming energy more sustainably, combating climate change, developing sustainable production and consumption, and empowering human rights. Our university operates within an adequate ultrastructure designable to implement all academic and operational activities within the SDGs framework.

We steadfastly persist in our pursuit of elevating Ege University into a vanguard research institution dedicated to pioneering technological advancements in support of sustainable development.

This report not only contains in-depth information about Ege University's remarkable efforts in each of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals throughout 2024 but also reveals the key strategies of our institution. Moreover, it serves as a guiding compass, not only illuminating our efforts but also enabling a keener determination of our evolving needs and strategic plans.

In harmonious unity, we ardently endeavor to steer our institution towards a guiding and pioneering role by meticulously realizing our objectives through a management philosophy of fairness, equity, and accessibility.

I appreciate all my esteemed colleagues whose collective efforts have shaped this report.

With warm regards and respect..."

Prof. Dr. Necdet BUDAK
Rector



LETTER FROM THE REPORT TEAM

As the Sustainability Report Team, Ege University, we are proud and excited to present the third annual Sustainability Report of Ege University, one of Turkey's pioneering universities, prepared to concretize the University's commitment to sustainability and enable you to follow our sustainability-related efforts closely.

Sustainability lies at the heart of Ege University's main objectives. Besides, our university bears the responsibility of leaving a more livable world to future generations, and it emphasizes its determination to integrate sustainability principles in the fields of education, research, social contribution, and campus management. Over the years, Ege University has built a strong track record of offering sustainable solutions to address the challenges facing the university and society. In 2020, all these efforts culminated in establishing the Rankings Office. This move not only strengthened the university's commitment to sustainability but also led to the formation of sub-commissions focusing on various Sustainable Development Goals. These sub-working groups brought together academics and administrative staff from every faculty and the Rectorate, each contributing diverse perspectives and professional expertise.

What makes the Rankings Office even more dynamic is its inclusion of the Sustainability Report Team, which actively participates in all activities, thus enhancing the visibility of the office across the university.

Ege University aims to extend influence far beyond the boundaries of our institution. The EGE Sustainability Team seeks to be a trailblazer in instilling a culture of sustainability in other higher education institutions. Our Sustainability Team and its sub-working groups are going to serve as advisors to our university as well as to other universities, offering insights into Sustainable Development Goals and impact management. Furthermore, we are going to continue to be actively involved in educational initiatives that support schools on their sustainability journeys.

Beyond our campuses, we actively engage with local communities, businesses, and government entities to foster sustainable relationships, collaborate on solving common issues, and share our wealth of knowledge.

Ege University is unwavering in its commitment to the responsible management of resources to mitigate their impact on society, the environment, and the economy. This report offers a transparent and current source of information, providing valuable guidance to universities and stakeholders seeking to expand their knowledge on sustainability.

EGE University is actively dedicated to advancing sustainability through research, education, and innovation to become a leading institution in Turkey and worldwide. Our primary focus is on enhancing the accessibility, inclusivity, and affordability of our university for the benefit of our community. We cultivate positive partnerships with industry leaders to strengthen our engagement and ensure the use of environmentally sustainable practices that support innovation and research.

This report offers insight into EGE UNI's position in 2024 regarding enhancing sustainability in Turkey. We share our initiatives and commitments related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability, along with their corresponding impacts. We extend our gratitude to our sub-working groups, the Sustainability Report team, our dedicated students, EGE's esteemed academicians, and the Rectorate for their unwavering efforts this year to further our sustainable impact.

Our journey towards securing the sustainability of our world is an extensive and long way one. As the EGE Sustainability Team, we place our trust in the dedication of our university's staff and students to continue their improvements this year and sustain their endeavors well into the future.

We appreciate your interest in the Ege University Sustainability Report and eagerly welcome the feedback of our readers.

Prof. Dr. Gökür ŞİŞMAN AYDIN
Coordinator
EU Sustainability Office

POLICY FOR PURCHASING, TRANSFORMATION AND LOGISTICS

Ege University adopts the Sustainable Green Campus policy, which prioritizes environmental awareness in all the activities of the university, carries out environmental activities in this direction, and aims to make the concept of sustainability a life culture for its students and employees during and after the education and training period. According to the Sustainable Green University Strategic Plan published in 2016, Ege University is working to establish an environment-oriented management system that includes purchasing, transformation and logistics activities.

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION FOOD AND MATERIAL PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Ege University has a reliable product and sustainable environment-oriented management system based on green supply chain principles in the food and material supply process, which includes purchasing, transformation and logistics activities, in order to meet the needs of students, academics and administrative staff according to Ethical Sourcing Policy Ege University carries out the procurement of non-food materials by the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department (IMI). Work flow plans published on the website of the Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs provide transparent information about how procurement processes are carried out. Ege University has announced the policies it has developed to create a reliable product and sustainable environment-oriented management system based on green supply chain principles in the food and material supply process, including procurement, transformation and logistics activities, to meet the needs of students, academics and administrative staff with the 1st Sustainability Report. In terms of nutrition services, all production activities in Ege University campus are carried out in the main kitchen located in the central campus. Breakfast, lunch and dinner services are provided in our student cafeterias and lunch service is provided in our staff cafeterias. There are 3 student dining halls and 9 staff dining halls in the central campus. Food safety in Ege University cafeterias meets ISO 22000 standards Ege University presents the current situation, goals, indicators and action plans for the elimination of all forms of malnutrition, including data, analysis and recommendations on issues such as food insecurity, food loss and waste, food systems and biodiversity, according to its Ethical Sourcing Policy and Green Procurement Use Policy.

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY EGE UNIVERSITY

Ege University is strongly committed to advancing sustainable and responsible production through innovative research, institutional policies, and practical campus applications. The university's approach aligns with Türkiye's Zero Waste Regulation and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12, focusing on efficient resource use, waste prevention, and circular production systems.

Ege University contributes directly to sustainable production and material circularity by integrating research, industry collaboration, and applied sustainability education. The results not only reduce production-related waste and emissions but also generate scalable technological models for sustainable manufacturing. The university's ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System ensures that all production and procurement processes are continuously improved within a circular economy framework.

Faculty of Agriculture - Menemen Research, Application and Production Farm

These products include vegetables, fruits, flowers, tomato paste, jam, tarhana, honey, some dairy products (yogurt, cheese, butter, kefir, etc.). Organic production of these products has begun. The Faculty of Agriculture's services for producers include the provision of breeding animals, quality seeds, seedlings, saplings and foliar fertilizers, as well as the transfer of information through various means. Our products are available for the whole country from major e-shopping sites.

Faculty of Agriculture - Mordoğan Research, Application and Experiment Station

The products obtained as a result of production activities are offered to local people. The fruits and vegetables obtained are offered to the local people and to the people of Izmir at the Faculty of Agriculture sales points on campus. There are olive, almond, pine, cypress, plum, peach and apricot trees on the land, as well as a collection vineyard. It is a gene bank in the field of vineyards and fruits. Artichokes, daffodils and hyacinths are also produced.

Faculty of Fisheries

The fish and fish products sold at the Faculty of Fisheries are ordered online with the principle of responsible production and waste is prevented.



Key Actions on Responsible Production

The university promotes circular and bio-based production across research and practice. The Biomass Energy Systems and Technologies Research Center (BESTMER) organized specialized training programs on "Green Transformation with Biomass Energy," highlighting how renewable biomass resources can replace fossil-based materials in production processes. In another initiative, the "Waste Geo-Materials Recycling Project", supported by the European Union, develops innovative technologies for reusing construction and geological waste, minimizing the extraction of virgin resources. Similarly, the "Kapok Fiber Project" focuses on developing biodegradable fibers for outdoor equipment, replacing conventional synthetic plastics with nature-based alternatives. Furthermore, the MARIPET Project addresses waste reduction in fisheries, turning discarded plastics and materials into valuable secondary resources.



Egert Natural Products Production Ltd. was established in 1999. Initially, it participated in the industrial part of a project related to the production of spirulina, a type of microscopic algae, in collaboration with the Ege University Science, Technology, Application, and Research Center.

This project will create an alternative to fish meal using worms enriched with spirulina as a source of animal protein.

Research and practical applications are carried out over an area of 265,280 m², focusing on the cultivation, breeding, and conservation of olive, almond, vineyard, vegetable, and ornamental plant varieties suitable for the local ecology. Technical knowledge is transferred to local producers, and when needed, production materials such as seedlings, saplings, and bulbs are provided. The products obtained from these production activities are offered to the local community.



“Breath for the Future, Breath for Humanity,”

On National Afforestation Day, thousands of saplings were planted in the soil.

In İzmir, during the “National Afforestation Day” event held under the theme “Breath for the Future, Breath for Humanity,” thousands of saplings were brought together with the earth.

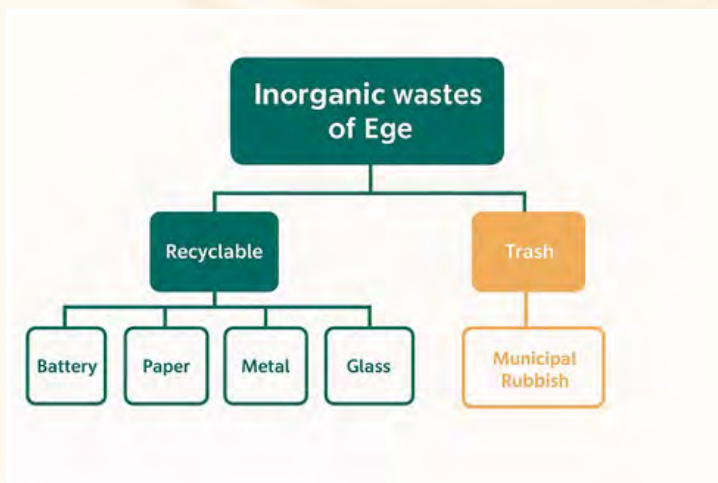
Ege University students and staff also participated in the event in İzmir, planting saplings to provide fresh air both for the future and for humanity.

Ege University Waste and Toxic Management Summary (Integrated Overview)

Ege University operates a comprehensive Integrated Waste Management System aligned with the Zero Waste Action Plan, emphasizing the principles of prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover. The “Leaf-Branch-Trunk” model governs all stages-from waste generation to disposal-ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and fostering a culture of sustainability across campus operations.

GENERAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ZERO WASTE IMPLEMENTATION

- The Zero Waste Action Plan aims to elevate the university from the basic level to Platinum status.
- A Zero Waste Commission supervises daily operations, data tracking, and awareness activities.
- Waste categories include packaging, hazardous, medical, electronic, organic, and non-recyclable materials.
- Mobile Waste Collection Centers at strategic points (Faculty of Dentistry, Medicine, and Metro entrance) support public participation.



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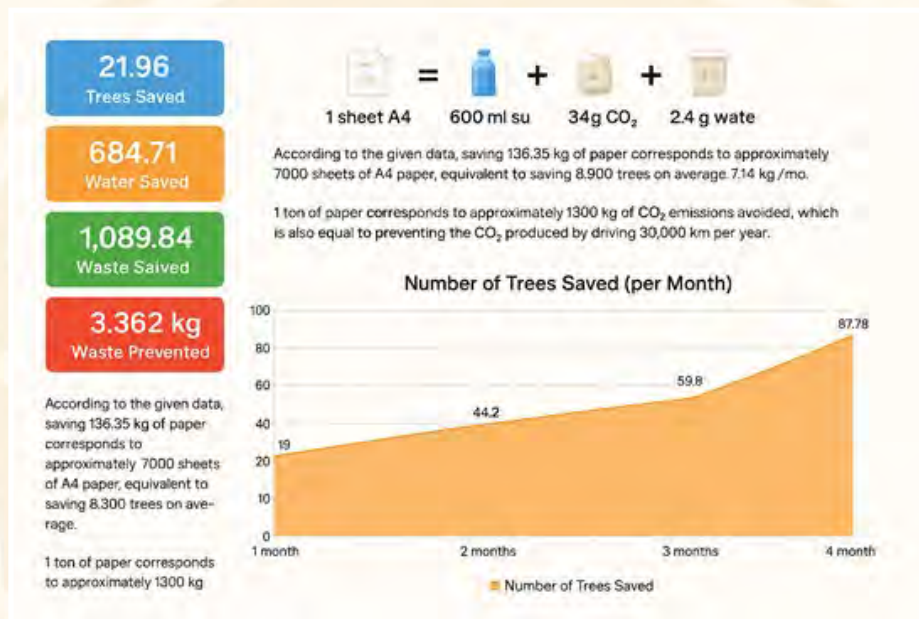


Mobile Waste Collection Centers at strategic points (Faculty of Dentistry, Medicine, and Student Bazaar entrance) support public participation.



WASTE REDUCTION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

- The Electronic Document Management System (EDYS) and enVision automation reduced paper usage.
- Directives encourage double-sided printing, draft reuse, recycled paper, and bulk procurement.
- Cloth bags, refillable cartridges, and rechargeable batteries replace single-use materials.
- Awareness events include "Barter Sunday" and exhibitions such as "Waste Aesthetics" and "Revival of Second-hand Clothes."



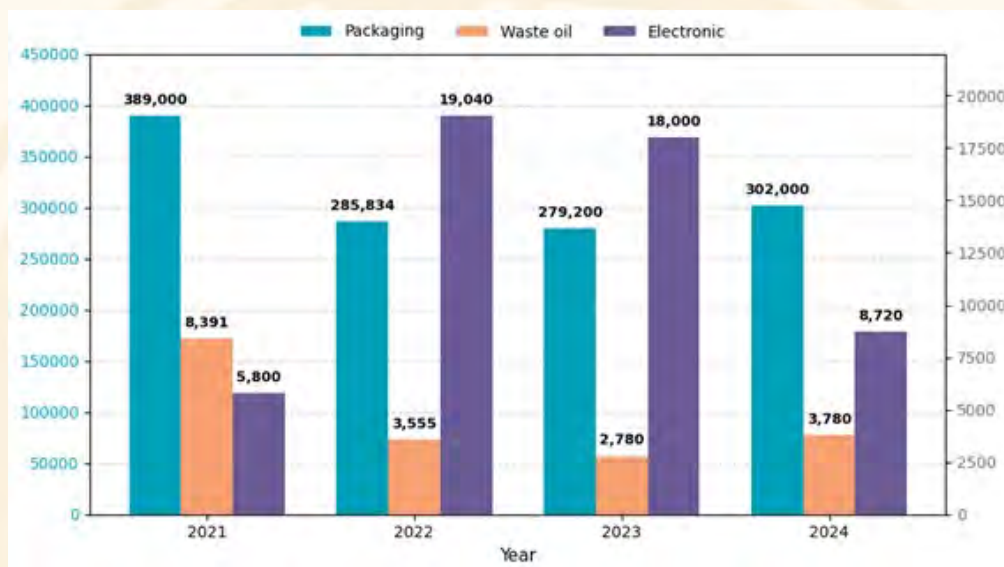
ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Food waste is converted into compost or pet food using 24-hour composting machines.
- Garden waste (e.g., olive pruning residues) is composted in bioreactors and through open composting.
- Tea and coffee grounds are processed into pellets and biochar for use as fuel and soil conditioners.
- Research studies evaluate composted tobacco waste as an alternative to barn manure.



TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Laboratory chemicals are stored in hazardous waste stations and incinerated through licensed facilities.
- Electronic waste, waste oil, batteries, and expired pharmaceuticals are collected and recycled.
- Collaboration with TAP Association ensures battery collection and awareness.
- Waste medicine boxes enable safe disposal of expired drugs.
- The Toxic Waste Management Booklet provides legal codes and labeling guidance.



EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- Zero Waste courses are mandatory for first-year students and covered in graduate orientation.
- Student initiatives include recycling art, waste collection campaigns, and awareness events.

The opening of the Exhibition "The Revival of Second-hand Clothes Within the Scope of the Advanced Transformation Principle" organized by the Ege University School of Fashion and Design was held.





Waste Aesthetics Sustainable Touches Draping Exhibition
prepared by students of Ege University School of Fashion and Design



Ege University student communities provide an environmentally friendly shopping experience by exchanging items they do not use.



Ege University has been providing GREENMETRIC data since 2014 and has been the National Coordinator and the Steering Committee of the GreenMetric since 2024

GreenMetric, an open platform for participation by prestigious universities worldwide, evaluates universities across various areas, including energy and climate change, water resources management, transportation, and education. Led by GreenMetric, the rankings are conducted annually, ranking universities based on their environmentally friendly practices. In this context, Ege, whose remarkable achievements in the GreenMetric rankings over the past decade have been both raising environmental awareness and building sustainable campuses, has been appointed as a coordinator by the University of Indonesia (UI), GreenMetric's executive, in 2024, in partnership with BEUN. This means the two universities will jointly serve as GreenMetric Türkiye National Coordinators. This prestigious role is determined annually as part of the GreenMetric platform, which aims to raise global awareness of universities' environmental awareness.



Prof. Dr. Nezzet BUDAK
Rector



Prof. Gökür Şişman Aydın
Sustainability Coordinator of Ege University

Hosted by Ege University and coordinated by the EU Sustainability Office, the Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Seminars was held on 28 May 2024 in collaboration with the [International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems \(SDEWES\)](#), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye.

Ege University had the honor of hosting Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şiir Kılış, [Vice-Chair of Working Group III of the IPCC](#), and Prof. Dr. Neven Duić, [President of the SDEWES Centre](#), along with distinguished academics and experts.

This thought-provoking and insightful event brought together academics, professionals, and students from diverse disciplines, forming a platform to explore the critical role of universities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing climate action and renewable energy. The program was part of the EU – SDEWES – IPCC Joint Seminar Series.



In their keynote speeches, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şiir Kılış (IPCC), Prof. Dr. Neven Duić (SDEWES), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökür Şişman Aydın - The Sustainability Coordinator of Ege University - and Dr. Hasan Sarpaş from the EU Solar Energy Institute highlighted the collective journey towards sustainability and underscored the vital roles of climate action, renewable energy, and higher education institutions in this process.

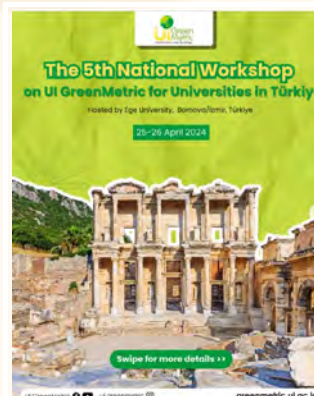
Throughout the seminars, experts and academics from various institutions, as well as passionate students, engaged in stimulating discussions covering a wide range of topics - from the importance of clean energy in achieving the SDGs to inter-university collaboration models. The sessions also addressed advocacy and effective communication strategies, emphasizing their importance in advancing sustainability and strengthening universities' roles in global climate action.

In the Environmental Awards Competition organized by the Bogazici University Electrical Engineering Club, Ege University was awarded the "Most Environmentally Friendly University" award.



Ege University hosted the GREENMETRIC Turkey National Workshop

The 5th GREENMETRIC Türkiye National Workshop was held on April 25-26, hosted by Ege University, to encourage Turkish universities to share their experiences and take further steps in sustainability. Attendees included Dr. Nyoman Suwartha, Vice President of Research and Development at Greenmetric's Main Management; Dr. Ruki Harwahyu, Greenmetric's Data, Systems, and Information Technology Expert; managers from the environment, waste, and energy departments of various Turkish universities; academics; and students..





Role of Universities in Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainability Reporting: THE Ege University Model

The 2024 Congress on Climate Limits, Urbanization, and Sustainability (FOCUS'24), organized by Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University, took place on October 24-25-26, 2024. FOCUS'24, where researchers from many universities around the world shared new ideas on climate change, sustainability, and urbanization policies, focused on developing effective strategies for global environmental problems and international collaborations. Ege University Sustainability Coordinator Prof. Dr. Gökür Şişman Aydın was a keynote speaker and delivered her speech titled "Role of Universities in Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainability Reporting: THE Ege University Model."



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Ege University is among the first state universities to obtain the Zero Waste Certificate (valid until 2025).
- Partnerships with TAP, municipal recycling units, and the Ministry of Environment strengthen implementation.
- Educational materials such as booklets and films enhance outreach to the public.



SCIENTIFIC PROJECT



Ege University is a partner of the Turkish leg and the executive director of the Ege University Faculty of Engineering Department of Civil Engineering Prof. Dr. The international project “Upgrading geomaterials: from waste to resource-UPGRADE”, made by Alper Sezer with 21 partners, was entitled to be supported within the scope of the European Union’s MSCA Staff Exchange Call (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-SE-01) program.

“International Congress on Sustainability in Life” from Ege University



THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2026 & GRI Index Matrix

THE	Impact Rankings Methodology 2026 Version 1.1	GRI	Disclosure	Reported	Page
12.1	Research on responsible consumption and production			Fully	1-14
12.2	Operational measures			Fully	1-3
12.2.1	Ethical sourcing policy Have a policy on ethical sourcing of food and supplies	GRI 306: Waste 2020	306-2 Management of significant waste related impacts	Fully	1
12.2.3	Policy waste disposal-hazardous materials Have a policy, process or practice on waste disposal - Covering hazardous materials		306-2 Management of significant waste related impacts	Fully	3-5
12.2.4	Policy waste disposal - landfill policy Have a policy on waste disposal - to measure the amount of waste sent to landfill and recycled		306-3 Waste generated	Fully	3-5
12.2.5	Policy for minimisation of plastic use Have policies around use minimisation of plastic		306-2 Management of significant waste related impacts	Fully	3-5
12.2.6	Policy for minimisation of disposable items Have policies around use minimisation of disposable items		306-2 Management of significant waste related impacts	Fully	3-5
12.2.7	Disposable policy: extensions to services Ensuring these policies extend to outsourced services and the supply chain		306-2 Management of significant waste related impacts	Fully	4-6
12.2.8	Minimisation policies extended to suppliers Ensuring these policies extend to outsourced suppliers and the supply chain - (suppliers of equipment, stationary, building contracts)?		306-2 Management of significant waste related impacts	Fully	4-6
12.3	Proportion of recycled waste			Fully	5
12.3.1	Waste tracking Measure the amount of waste generated and recycled across the university	GRI 306: Waste 2020	306-4 Waste diverted from disposal	Fully	4-5
12.3.2	Proportion of waste recycled		306-4 Waste diverted from disposal	Fully	5
	Amount of waste generated		306-3 Waste generated	Fully	5
	Amount of waste recycled		306-4 Waste diverted from disposal	Fully	5
	Amount of waste sent to landfill		306-5 Waste directed to disposal	Fully	5
12.4	Publication of a sustainability report			Fully	7-9
12.4.1	Publication of a sustainability report Annual Bi-annual Less Frequent	GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021	2-3 Reporting period, frequency and contact point 2-4 Restatements of information 2-18 Evaluation of the performance of the highest governance body 2-22 Statement on sustainable development strategy	Fully	7-9

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