



2024 Sustainability Report **SDG 13**



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Ege University has a leading role not only in education and research, but also in sustainability and environmentally friendly approaches. In this context, a comprehensive Climate Change Policy has been established in parallel with the Accessible and Clean Energy Policy. In addition to these policies, the university embodies its sustainability goals with strategic documents such as the "Sustainable Green University Strategic Plan" and the "Zero Waste Action Plan". The sustainability vision created by these plans and policies is implemented in cooperation with local governments and communities. With this proactive approach, Ege University demonstrates its sensitivity and commitment to environmental problems.

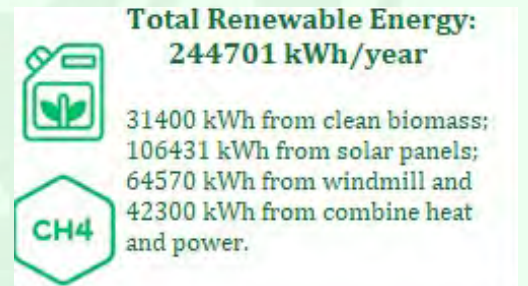
"Cooperation Protocol in the Field of Creating a Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Campus" was signed between the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. As a result of sustainable studies, it has become one of the 10 pilot universities where the protocol will be implemented.



Continuing its steady rise in the Greenmetric "World Green University" rankings, Ege University rose to 88th place among 1,477 universities worldwide in the 2024 rankings, continuing its success in this field. With this result, Ege University ranks 4th among state universities in Turkey and 1st in the Aegean Region.

CLEAN ENERGY POLICY

Ege University embraces the vision of becoming a carbon-neutral university, taking an active role in combating global climate change and adhering to the greenhouse gas protocol. Within the framework of the strategic plan serving this purpose, it has been decided to meet the majority of its energy consumption from low-carbon and renewable sources, in line with sustainability principles. It has been documented that the university's total energy consumption has been reduced to 244,701 kWh/year through these initiatives. These successful steps demonstrate the university's leadership not only in academics but also in environmental sustainability. These efforts inspire students and society to consider what can be done for a more sustainable future.



Carbon-Free University Commitment

Ege University continues to work in line with the Green Covenant and our country's 2050 emission reduction targets.

Cooperation for Climate Change

The project was implemented under the coordination of TÜBİTAK MAM and within the scope of the "Climate Change Adaptation Grant Program (CCAGP)" funded by the EU and the Republic of Turkey. The project kick-off meeting was held in İzmir on March 18, 2024. "Climate Change Resilient Agriculture" training sessions were held in the Ödemiş, Tire, and Torbalı districts of İzmir between October 8 and 10, 2024. The "socioeconomic impact" survey, which addressed the project's global impact, was completed on December 9, 2024. This project exemplifies direct collaboration on the themes of agriculture, food security, and increasing the resilience of rural communities to climate change.



The project is being implemented within the scope of the "IPA II - Climate Change Adaptation Grant Program," funded by the EU and the Republic of Turkey, in collaboration with the Department of Landscape Architecture at Ege University's Faculty of Agriculture, and the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE, an Austria-based NGO). The international workshop "Coastal Resilience & Nature-Based Solution" was held on May 1, 2024 (May 14-16, 2024). A joint awareness-raising event titled "1st Climate Festival" was held on May 17, 2024, with participants from Turkey, Romania, Germany, and Poland. This project is a good example of multi-stakeholder collaboration,

focusing on assessing climate change-related risks (high temperatures, floods/inundations, storm surges) in urban coastal areas and developing nature-based solutions.

Our university is involved in a 32-country partnership project supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to support the capacities of Member States in addressing the effects of pollution and climate change on the sediments and water columns of the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Aral Sea on a regional scale.



«Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Campus» «Climate action activities»

The 1st Climate Festival (1st Climate Change) was held within the scope of the project titled Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Urban Coastal Districts in İzmir, which is carried out in partnership with the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE), an Austria-based non-governmental organization, in cooperation with the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre, and supported by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey.



The Energy Management Coordination Office, established to further institutionalize and systematize energy efficiency efforts at Ege University, continues its work. The Office, which aims to contribute to Ege University's "green campus" goals, supports energy efficiency and renewable energy development efforts within the university.



Good Practice in Ege University

Recycling Organic Waste: Bio-degradable waste from the cafeteria of our campus is converted to 60% cat-dog food and 40% to compost with a compost machine.

Water Harvesting Activities: A rainwater harvesting system was installed to harvest rainwater flowing from the roofs of our buildings in our Faculties of Science and Pharmacy.

Barter Market: Our "Second-Hand Barter Market" event, which we organized within the scope of our World Environment Day Activities, was held.

Climate and Zero-Waste Community: The work for the establishment of a student community whose primary aim is to work on a sustainable and climate-friendly campus has been brought to the final stage.

Within the scope of the "Pedestrian Priority Sustainable Green Campus" project, 5500 meters of bicycle path was built and started to be used. In addition, 12 "Shared Bicycle" stations and 150 bicycles are actively used on campus. A total of 400 thousand kilometers have been traveled with this system.

Ege University's "ZERO-WASTE" promotional film is published.

Green University training documents: Green University Strategic Plan Diagram, Green University Strategic Plan, Green University Booklet, Zero-Waste Booklet

Transition to University Life Course: With the decision of the Senate of our university, the Zero-Waste Project is explained within the scope of the Transition to University Life course of our new students, thus raising awareness of all our new students on the subject.

Waste Battery Protocol: In accordance with the Regulation on the Control of Waste Batteries and Accumulators, "PROTOCOL ON THE COLLECTION AND EVALUATION OF WASTE BATTERIES AT EGE UNIVERSITY" was signed between (TAP) and Ege University covering the collection, transport and recovery/disposal of waste batteries.

Climate Change Activities at National and International Level

Ege University has published various publications on informing local and regional governments about the risks of climate change. These include popular scientific papers, articles, books, international symposium proceedings and international projects.

Ege University's scientific activities in the fields of climate change, agriculture and biology are characterized by a wide range of impressive research projects. The University takes an active role with conferences, congresses and seminars to raise awareness both nationally and internationally.



SYMPOSIUM - 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION OF EUROSIAN BIODIVERSITY

WORKSHOP - A workshop organized in collaboration with the Ege University Faculty of Science and the Biology Society. The event focused on the contribution of young minds (students/academics) in the context of climate change and the water crisis. It took place on November 12, 2024.



SU VE İKLİM KRİZİNDE GENÇ FİKİRLER ÇALIŞTAYI	
8 EKİM CUMA KIR FAKÜLTESİ A. SÖZÖK KONFERANS SALONU	
PROGRAM	
09.00-09.30	Kayıt
09.30-10.30	Açılış Konuşmaları: Ege Üniversitesi Rektörü, Tuzlukaya Başkanı, Muhammet YILMAZ İzmir Büyükşehir Belediye Başkanı, Prof. Dr. Serdar ÇAKHAN SÖZÜK Ege Üniversitesi Rektörü, Prof. Dr. Serdar ÇAKHAN SÖZÜK Ege Üniversitesi Prof. Dr. Serdar ÇAKHAN SÖZÜK Ege Üniversitesi Prof. Dr. Serdar ÇAKHAN SÖZÜK Ege Üniversitesi Prof. Dr. Serdar ÇAKHAN SÖZÜK
10.30-11.30	Öğrenci Sunumları Rıfat D. YILMAZ, Ege Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Biyoloji Bölümü Rıfat D. YILMAZ, Ege Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Biyoloji Bölümü Rıfat D. YILMAZ, Ege Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Biyoloji Bölümü
11.30-12.30	Ara
12.30-13.30	Öğle Arası
13.30-14.30	Workshop: İklim ve Su Krizi Bağlamında Gençler Savatçı mı? Hedefler mi?
14.30-15.30	Ara
15.30-16.30	Öğrenci Sunumları Rıfat D. YILMAZ, Ege Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Biyoloji Bölümü Rıfat D. YILMAZ, Ege Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Biyoloji Bölümü Rıfat D. YILMAZ, Ege Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Biyoloji Bölümü
16.30-17.30	Kapanış Konuşmaları, Sonuçlar ve Fotoğraf Yansıması Kayıtlarının Açıklanması



URBAN GreenUP, of which Ege University is a partner, is a project financed within the scope of the European Union's Horizon 2020 program. It aims to develop, implement, and replicate Renewed Urban Plans in a number of European and non-European partner cities to reduce the effects of climate change, improve air quality and water management, and increase sustainability-cities with innovative nature-based solutions.

ValueFarm project, of which Ege University is a partner, focuses on valorizing Mediterranean small farms by introducing wild edible plants of the Mediterranean (WEPs) complementary crops within a competitive farming sector and a climate-changing world and cropping them in a sustainable point of view. Moreover, the contribution of WEPs cultivation to soil property improvement will be assessed by reducing or eradicating the use of agrochemicals, and by introducing the use of a more sustainable agriculture with biostimulants, biofertilizers and biopesticides and the use of tailored composts.



Cooperation with non-governmental organizations



Ege University, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Conservation Association, analyses the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems and living life in detail. In this context, it carries out studies on the potential effects of climate change on marine biodiversity, strategic planning on the importance of protecting marine areas and developing sustainability recommendations. Our faculty member İnci Tüney Kızılkaya from Ege University serves as a Scientific Monitoring Consultant.

Gökova Bay to Cape Gelidonya Turkey

Restoring marine ecosystem connectivity in south western Turkey. This project is removing barriers to the recovery of marine ecosystem from Gökova Bay to Cape Gelidonya, triggering the revival of healthy ecosystem processes. A fully functioning ecosystem which keeps invasive species in check will generate sustainable benefits for local people and increase resilience to climate change.



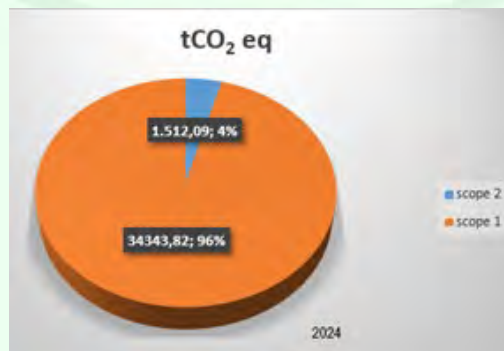
Gökova Gulf – Sponge Monitoring

Marine ecosystem restoration experiments

Ege University continues to work in line with the Green Covenant and our country's 2050 zero emission-reduction targets.

Ege University has been calculating its Carbon Footprint since 2016. Our university's carbon footprint scope 1 and scope 2 2023-2024 results graphics are shared below.

[Click for more data](#)



THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2026 & GRI Index Matrix

THE	Impact Rankings Methodology 2026 Version 1.1	GRI	Disclosure	Reported	Page
13.1	Research on climate action			Fully	2-3
13.2	Low-carbon energy use			Fully	1
13.2.1	Low-carbon energy tracking Measure the amount of low carbon energy used across the university	GRI 302: Energy 2016	302-1 Energy consumption within the organization	Fully	1
13.2.2	Low-carbon energy use			Fully	1
	Total energy used			Fully	1
	Total energy used from low-carbon sources			Fully	1-8
13.3	Environmental education measures			Fully	1-8
13.3.1	Local education programmes on climate Provide local education programmes or campaigns on climate change risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning			Fully	4-6
13.3.2	Climate Action Plan, shared Have a university Climate Action plan, shared with local government and local community groups			Fully	1
13.3.3	Co-operative planning for climate change disasters Participate in co-operative planning for climate change disasters, 2016 working with government	GRI 201: Economic Performance 2016	201-2 Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change	Fully	2
13.3.4	Inform and support government Inform and support local or regional government in local climate change disaster or risk early warning and monitoring	GRI 305: Emissions 2016	305-4 GHG emissions intensity	Fully	2-3
13.3.5	Environmental education collaborate with NGO Collaborate with NGOs on climate adaptation			Fully	7-8
13.4	Commitment to carbon neutral university			Fully	1-8
13.4.1	Commitment to carbon neutral university Have a target date by which it will become carbon neutral according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocols?	GRI 302: Energy 2016 GRI 305: Emissions 2016	302-4 Reduction of energy consumption 305-5 Reduction of GHG emissions	Fully	1-8
	scope 1	GRI 305: Emissions 2016	305-1 Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	Fully	1-8
	scope 1 and 2	GRI 302: Energy 2016 GRI 305: Emissions 2016	302-2 Energy consumption outside of the organization 305-2 Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions	Fully	1-8
	Scope 1, 2 and 3 (partial)	GRI 302: Energy 2016	302-2 Energy consumption outside of the organization	Fully	1-8
	Scope 1, 2 and 3 (full)	GRI 302: Energy 2016 GRI 305: Emissions 2016	302-2 Energy consumption outside of the organization 305-3 Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	Fully	1-8
13.4.2	Achieve by date	GRI 302: Energy 2016	302-3 Energy intensity	Fully	1-8
	Achieve by Date for achieved prior to 2023 – 4 points Date for achieved by: 2023-2029 – 3 points Date for achieved by: 2030-2039 – 2 points Date for achieved by: 2040-2049 – 1 point Date for achieved by: 2050 or later – 0.5 "			Fully	1-8



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