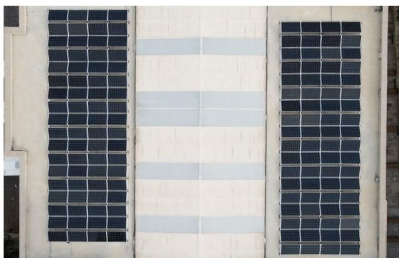
# ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025



Our year in environmental stewardship, inclusive education, scientific research and shared regional progress.







**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**
Energy, climate, water and resources

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Education, science, health and partnerships

ANNUAL REVIEW

# OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Our University is rooted in Cappadocia's historic settlements, rural economies and sensitive natural landscapes. We place sustainability at the centre of how we teach, conduct research, manage resources and contribute to community life. Our approach connects environmental stewardship with equal opportunity, good health, cultural continuity, responsible enterprise and partnerships that address regional and global challenges.

In 2025, we strengthened sustainability monitoring across our academic and administrative units, expanded education and research connected with the Sustainable Development Goals, and worked with communities on food systems, public health, employment and regional resilience. Our results include lower electricity demand in the comparable academic-year series, wider participation in sustainable learning and sustained renewable-energy provision. They also identify priorities for closer water management, greenhouse gas verification and waste recovery.

## SELECTED 2025 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **24.8%**<br>**Reduction in electricity consumption, 2024–2025 academic year** | **25,885 m³**<br>**Recorded water consumption, calendar year 2025** | 5,415 kg<br>Waste recorded by mass across three streams, 2025 |
| 46 courses<br>Sustainability-related taught courses, 2024–2025 | 26,934 procedures<br>Oral and dental clinical services, 2025 | 90 bicycles<br>Free-to-use campus bicycles, 2025 |

Selected indicators relate to calendar-year 2025 or to the 2024–2025 academic year, as identified in their labels. Together, they describe environmental operations, education, community care and sustainable mobility.

HOW OUR WORK CONNECTS

# MANAGING SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER

Our institutional approach links campus resource management with research, teaching, accessible services, cultural heritage and community partnerships. We assess progress through both operational indicators and the educational and social benefits of our work.

INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

ENERGY, CLIMATE ACTION AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOLOGY

WASTE, CIRCULARITY AND RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUSES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND OPEN SCIENCE

HEALTH, EQUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

SOCIAL IMPACT AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

THE 17 SDGS: INTEGRATED IMPACT AND PRIORITIES

# INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

We embed sustainability in institutional decision-making, academic development, campus management and community engagement.

Our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan identifies sustainability as a strategic area alongside education, research and development, institutional governance and community contribution. Within this structure, our sustainability priorities address climate action, biodiversity, resource efficiency, social inclusion, public health and cultural conservation.

## Governance Responsibilities and Co-ordination

Our Sustainability Commission supports institutional priorities, stakeholder participation and review. Our Sustainability Office, established as an operational co-ordination structure from **2023**, works across academic and administrative units. Together with our Department of Quality and Strategic Planning, we monitor indicators, identify areas for improvement, organise data flows and co-ordinate institutional sustainability reporting.

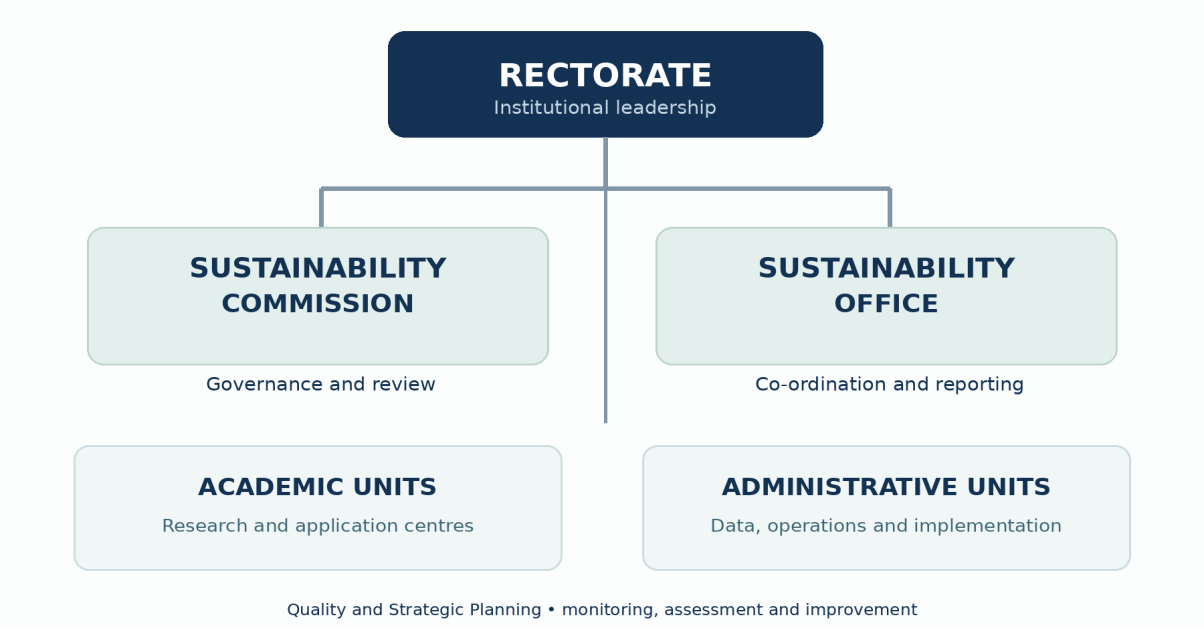



Figure 1. Institutional governance and co-ordination of sustainability responsibilities.

Our Sustainability Office works with academic and administrative units to consolidate information on teaching, research, resource use and engagement with communities. Research and application centres specialising in environmental humanities, Cappadocia studies, social and strategic studies and healthcare contribute expertise to the programme.

We use our established governance and quality processes to review energy, water, waste, education and community indicators. The Sustainability Commission provides institutional oversight, while the Sustainability Office co-ordinates implementation, engagement and reporting. Departmental findings inform operational priorities, awareness activities and institutional improvement.

Our academic work reinforces practical sustainability management. Research on river ecosystems, environmental risks, responsible tourism, the reuse of historic buildings and community health helps us respond to the ecological and social characteristics of Cappadocia.

## Institutional Policies and Management Instruments

Our institutional policies assign responsibilities for climate action, environmental protection, community contribution, waste management and procurement. Together with the 2023–2028 Strategic Plan, they provide a common basis for implementing sustainability measures in education, research and operations.

| Institutional document | Role in sustainability governance during 2025 |
|---|---|
| **2023–2028 Strategic Plan** | Institutional priorities for sustainability, education, research and community contribution |
| **KÜN.PB.010 – Environmental and Sustainability Policy** | Resource efficiency, waste prevention, plastic reduction and responsible sourcing |
| **KÜN.PB.014 – Climate Action Policy (2024)** | Energy, carbon, adaptation, mobility, water and monitoring responsibilities |
| **KÜN.PB.004 – Community Contribution Policy** | Local partnerships, lifelong learning and social responsibility |
| **KYS.PR.011 – Waste Management Procedure** | Separation, records, temporary storage, transfer and traceability |
| **YDİ.TL.002 – Supplier Qualification Assessment** | Environmental assessment criteria strengthened by the July 2025 revision |

We maintain a TS EN ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System covering education, research and development, management and community contribution activities. Following the 2025 surveillance process, our certification remained valid until 16 August 2028. Its management processes support the identification of environmental aspects, operational control, legal compliance, internal review and continuous improvement.

Our Environmental and Sustainability Policy, revised in November 2023, and our Climate Action Policy, issued in October 2024, guided our work throughout 2025. The July 2025 update to our Supplier Qualification Assessment Instruction further incorporated environmental compliance and certification into procurement assessments.

## International Assessment and Institutional Learning in 2025

In 2025, our University placed 344th among 1,745 institutions in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, improving by 55 places from 2024. We ranked 37th among 142 participating universities in Türkiye, eighth among 39 foundation universities and 29th worldwide in the waste-management category. These results reflected sustained progress in campus operations, environmental awareness and institutional monitoring.

We also participated in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for the first time. In the 2025 results, our overall performance placed us in the 1001–1500 band globally, with our strongest ranked result in SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” at 301–400, and further ranked performance in SDG 3, SDG 11 and SDG 13. Participation in this international assessment helped us evaluate the breadth of our work against widely recognised sustainability criteria.

Our Biosphere Sustainability Certification was renewed following the 2025 institutional audit. This renewal confirmed the continuity of our environmental, social and economic sustainability commitments and provided external international validation of our institutional sustainability practices.

External review and recognition also informed institutional learning during 2025. By combining ranking participation, certification renewal and public reporting, we strengthened our ability to benchmark progress, communicate results and align improvement priorities across the University.









Figure 2. External recognition and accessibility milestones in 2025. The photograph brings together the institutional display of our renewed Biosphere certification, our UI GreenMetric achievement certificate and the Green Flag candidacy recognition awarded to our School of Health Sciences for accessibility in education. Together with our first participation in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, these recognitions illustrate how external review, certification and assessment supported institutional learning and public accountability during 2025.

# ENERGY, CLIMATE ACTION AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

We combine energy monitoring, renewable infrastructure and practical efficiency measures to reduce environmental pressures from our campus operations.

Our Cappadocia Fire programme, 2024 Climate Action Policy and technical monitoring arrangements connect energy efficiency, building operations and renewable supply. Metering and site-level review support resource planning and the gradual reduction of fossil-fuel dependence.

## Measurable Progress in Electricity Consumption

Our electricity records show **1,569,072 kWh** in 2023–2024 and **1,180,132 kWh** in 2024–2025. This comparable academic-year series therefore recorded a reduction of **388,940 kWh**, equivalent to **24.8%**. We support sustained efficiency through LED lighting, controls, maintenance and engagement with building users.

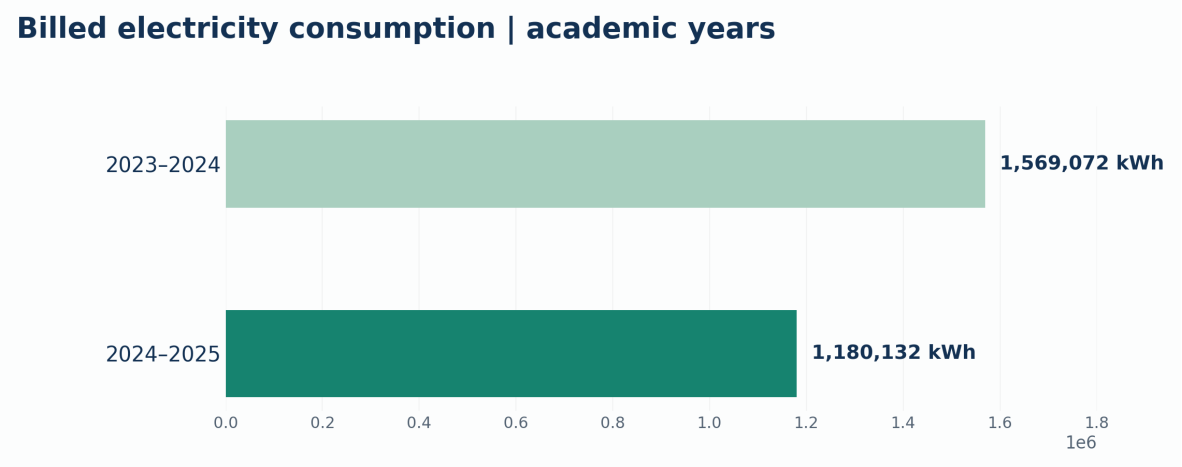



Figure 3. Electricity consumption in comparable academic-year records, 2023–2024 and 2024–2025.

This comparison uses the same electricity category and academic-year boundary in both periods.

## A Broader Energy-Accounting Boundary in 2025

Our 2025 energy inventory includes electricity, natural gas, coal, petrol and diesel, with a wider accounting scope than the previous institutional return. Total recorded energy under this expanded source-based approach was **73,638 GJ**. The earlier return recorded **5,649 GJ** within a narrower boundary; future reporting will use more consistent source coverage to support direct annual comparisons.

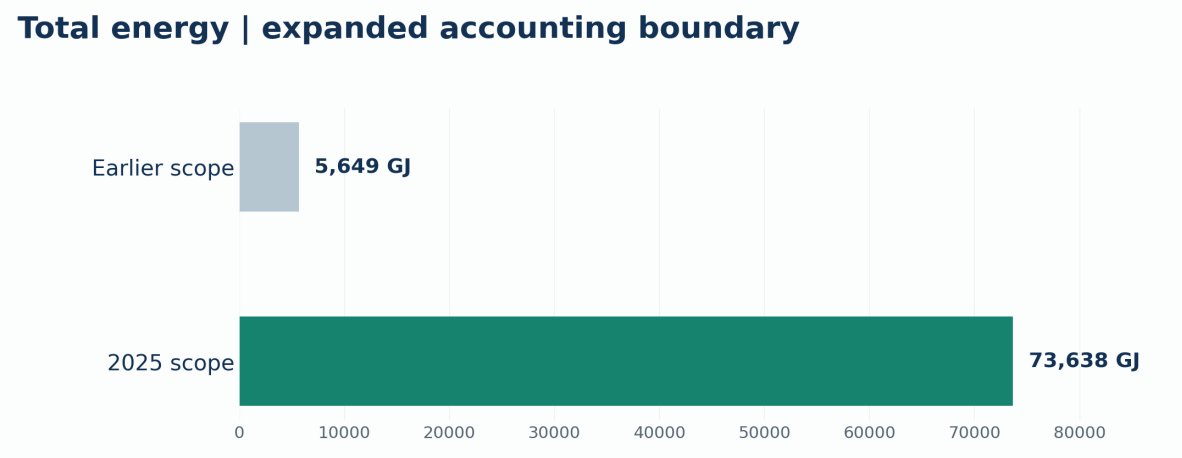



Figure 4. Effect of the expanded accounting boundary on reported total energy use.

The 2025 calendar-year billed-electricity figure was 1,119,371 kWh. We track this calendar-year series separately from the 2024–2025 academic-year electricity record of 1,180,132 kWh, enabling operational analysis within each reporting period.

Source-based energy accounts reveal how heating, building services, equipment and transport contribute to our operational demand. They guide practical decisions about building efficiency, fuel use, maintenance and the deployment of low-carbon technologies.

## Renewable Energy on Our Campuses

At our Oktay Sinanoğlu Building, **144** monocrystalline photovoltaic panels provide approximately **48 kW** of installed solar-electric capacity, with a documented annual technical output value of **74,400 kWh**. Solar water-heating collectors at our Mustafapaşa student residences provide **42 kW** of thermal capacity, with an annual technical energy contribution of **65,100 kWh**. The two systems together represent **139,500 kWh** (502.2 GJ) in documented annual technical electricity and heat values.

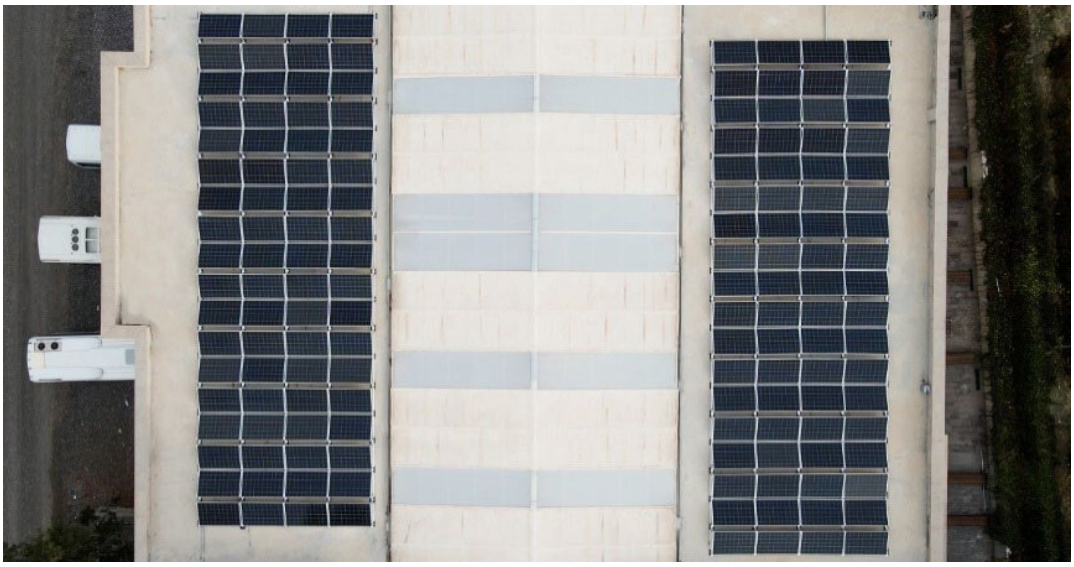


Figure 5. Rooftop photovoltaic panels at our Oktay Sinanoğlu Building.

Our Huawei SUN2000 platform supports digital monitoring of the photovoltaic system. Technical calculations for our solar water-heating installation complement the electrical monitoring, helping us assess the different roles of solar electricity and solar thermal energy.

We use solar electricity in building operations and solar thermal collectors for domestic hot water. We will continue strengthening metered generation records so that annual technical output values can be assessed alongside actual production.

## Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Our Long-Term Responsibility

Our calendar-year 2024 greenhouse gas inventory totalled 8,747.29 $tCO_2e$ and received independent verification on 7 May 2026. For calendar year 2025, we calculated 5,790.62 $tCO_2e$ across direct emissions, purchased energy, transportation and purchased products and services. During this work, we used specialist external support for both the calculation process and the subsequent verification process. The 2025 inventory remained subject to independent assurance at the time of reporting.

| 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|
| **8,747.29 $tCO_2e$** | **5,790.62 $tCO_2e$** |
| **Independently verified inventory** | **Calculated inventory** |

Direct emissions, including heating and fuel use, were the largest component of our calculated 2025 footprint. We are therefore prioritising heating efficiency, fleet and fuel management, equipment maintenance and renewable-energy use. Our 2024 Climate Action Policy guided action during 2025, while subsequent policy refinements in 2026 strengthened the longer-term carbon-neutrality commitment.

# WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY

We protect water resources through efficient campus operations and research on the aquatic ecosystems that sustain our region.

Through our Cappadocia Water programme, we monitor consumption, maintain water-saving fittings, inspect facilities and engage staff and students in responsible use. Our Natural Resource Use Tracking List includes monthly water records for all twelve months of 2025.

## Water Consumption in 2024–2025

Our recorded water consumption increased from **20,868.23 m³** in 2024 to **25,885.00 m³** in 2025, a rise of 5,016.77 m³ (**24.0%**). The monthly register recorded peaks in May (6,274 m³) and October (6,197 m³). We have prioritised meter-level review, seasonal consumption analysis and proactive leakage inspections in response.

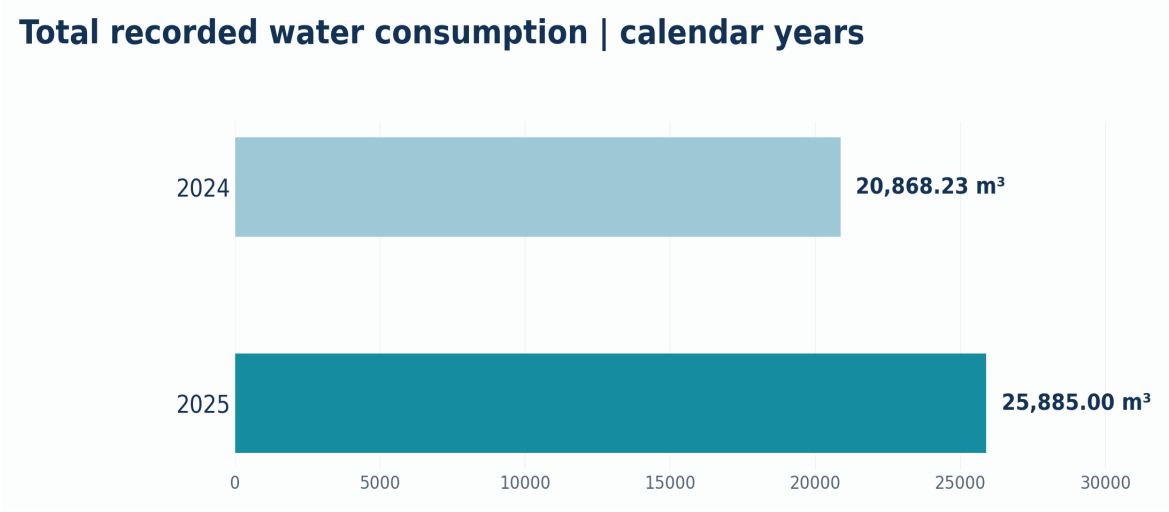



Figure 6. Total recorded water consumption in calendar years 2024 and 2025.

Our operational priorities include consistent measurement, preventative maintenance and targeted efficiency improvements.

The variation across our facilities and seasons informs maintenance planning, leak detection and user engagement. Facility-level monitoring will help us identify the principal causes of high-demand periods and establish more effective reduction measures.

## Water-Saving Equipment and Daily Operations

Our **2024–2025** equipment register lists 74 dual-flush cisterns, 12 pedal-operated taps, 120 pressure-reducing fittings and 13 water-efficient washing machines. We support these installations through leakage inspections, descaling, maintenance, suitable fixture selection and awareness activities.



Figure 7. Example of controlled water-use fittings in our campus facilities.

Dual-flush cisterns, pedal-operated taps and pressure-reducing fittings form part of our day-to-day water-efficiency programme, supported by maintenance, descaling and awareness activities. In 2025, we also began the preparatory work that informed the Water Efficiency Policy and Targets and Action Plan subsequently published in 2026.

## Research on Water Quality and Ecosystems

We advanced research into freshwater biodiversity, river health and pollution pressures during 2025. Our peer-reviewed work included assessments of Ephemeroptera communities in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin, diatom-based water-quality analysis in the Köprüçay River and research on human–aquifer relationships. We also continued work on Kızılırmak River water quality and related environmental monitoring.

Our ecological studies and water management programme connect applied science with the responsible stewardship of natural resources. Field-based research informs ecological assessment, while our campus efficiency measures respond to the demands of everyday operations.

## Biodiversity, Wetlands and Living Landscapes

Our Cappadocia Vegetation digital inventory makes regional plant diversity accessible to students, researchers and the public. The published collection contains **45 species** records and **286 photographs**, including endemic taxa associated with Cappadocia landscapes. Four selected nature activities in 2025, including visits to the Sultan Marshes, Ihlara Valley and Gomeda Valley, generated **101 participation records**. Together with our freshwater research, this work strengthens ecological knowledge and engagement with sensitive habitats.



Figure 8. Regional flora documented through our Cappadocia Vegetation inventory, illustrating the diversity of native and endemic plants in the landscapes of Cappadocia.

# WASTE, CIRCULARITY AND RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

We reduce unnecessary resource use, strengthen segregation at source and implement environmental safeguards in procurement and waste handling.

Our Waste Management Procedure (KYS.PR.011) sets out responsibilities for segregation, temporary storage, measurement and transfer to authorised operators. We combine these controls with environmental purchasing criteria, digital documentation and campus awareness activities.

## Our 2025 Waste Inventory

Our **2025** Waste Amount Tracking List records **5,415** kg across categories measured directly by mass. A further 450 litres of separately measured waste vegetable oil is equivalent to an estimated **409.5 kg**, using a disclosed density assumption of **0.91 kg**/L. The resulting combined estimate is **5,824.5** kg (**5.8245 tonnes**), comprising **2,100** kg of paper, **1,662** kg of medical waste, **1,653** kg of other waste and approximately **409.5 kg** of vegetable oil.

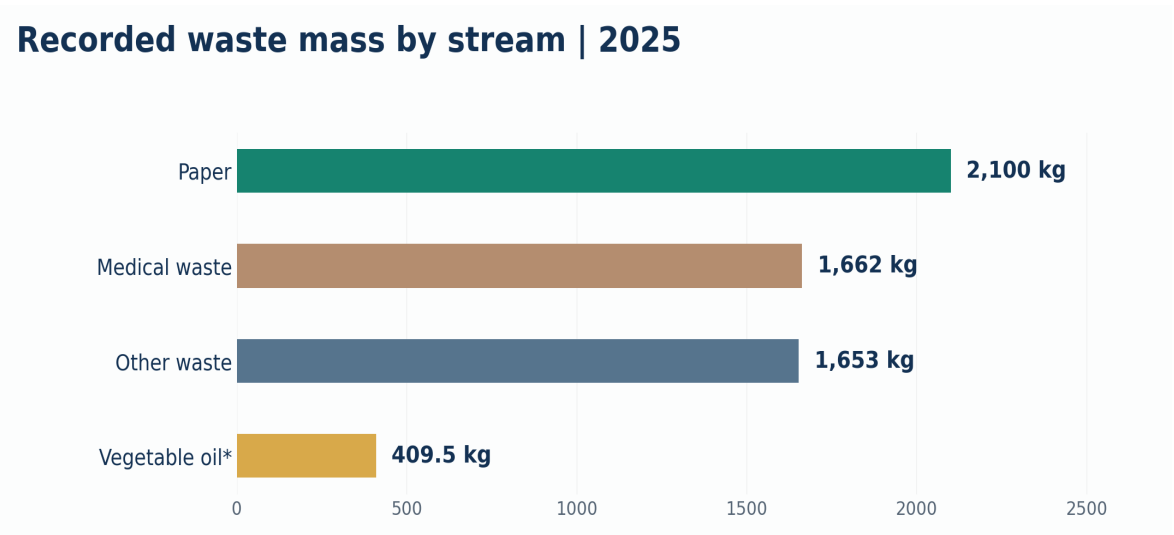



Figure 9. Distribution of recorded waste mass by waste stream, 2025.

Separately collected paper represented 2,100 kg of the recorded 2025 streams, equivalent to approximately 36.05% of the combined mass estimate after conversion of used cooking oil from volume. Our wider recovery arrangements include contracted collection routes for used cooking oil and specialist handling for medical waste.




Figure 10. Segregated waste collection and controlled temporary storage facilities.

## Waste Prevention and Reuse

Through our KÜN Earth programme, we promote durable alternatives to single-use products, including ceramic mugs, refillable metal bottles, metal straws and cloth bags. Digital documentation, electronic signatures and double-sided printing complement our approach to reducing material consumption at source. Student knowledge competitions and waste-segregation training help reinforce responsible everyday behaviour.

Separate records support tailored management of medical waste, paper, residual materials and cooking oil. We work with authorised collection services and use the material registers to strengthen traceability, waste prevention and recovery planning.

## Mustafapaşa Municipality and Environmental Procurement

Our Zero Waste Co-operation Protocol, signed with Mustafapaşa Municipality on 30 April 2025, strengthened separate collection, record-keeping, technical co-ordination and public-sector collaboration. The July 2025 revision of our Supplier Qualification Assessment Instruction made environmental criteria more explicit in supplier assessment. We address legal compliance and environmental responsibility together in food, cleaning, technical services and waste management.

In June 2025, we launched a Zero Waste Management System Optimisation Project to strengthen segregation infrastructure across our Nevşehir campuses, improve awareness materials and training, and establish an organic-waste management workflow for food-service and landscape waste. All our Nevşehir campuses continued to operate within the basic zero-waste certification framework while this optimisation project prepared the next stage of system improvement.




Figure 11. Policy, supplier assessment and operational controls for responsible procurement.

# SUSTAINABLE CAMPUSES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

We preserve the cultural character of Cappadocia while making campus spaces accessible, resource-conscious and supportive of community life.

Our dispersed campus model in Mustafapaşa is based on conserving and using existing historic buildings. At our Ürgüp Factory Campus, we continue to adapt former industrial structures for education, the arts and community life. We assess new building requirements alongside resource efficiency, compatibility with cultural surroundings and the value of existing building stock.



Figure 12. Historic buildings conserved and adapted for educational use at Mustafapaşa Campus.

Our Ürgüp Factory Campus illustrates how a former industrial site can become a place for education, research and public engagement. Reusing the existing structures of the former Tekel Wine Factory reflects our commitment to preserving historic value while limiting pressures associated with additional land development. On **9 July 2025**, we signed a joint-use and co-operation protocol with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to develop public library and cultural-centre functions within the historic factory complex.

## Low-Carbon Mobility

Our Cappadocia Air programme supports shared and active mobility. The 2025 transport inventory identifies **seven** free shuttle vehicles and **90 bicycles** available to students and staff without charge. Bicycle parking, walking routes, pedestrian-priority areas and access improvements complement these services and encourage alternatives to individual car travel.



Figure 13. Shared bicycle provision on our campuses.

## Accessible Spaces and Publicly Shared Outdoor Areas

We work to improve participation in university life through pedestrian-priority circulation, tactile guiding surfaces, ramps and access adjustments appropriate to our historic buildings. Our Accessible KÜN Unit and infrastructure teams co-ordinate the identification of accessibility needs and the improvement of facilities.



Figure 14. Landscaped campus walking routes and accessible circulation.

### Conservation through Active Cultural Use

During the Nevşehir Culture Route Festival of 2–**10 August 2025**, we hosted publicly accessible digital-art and cultural-heritage exhibitions in the historic rock-cut cellar at our Ürgüp Factory Campus. Our Library and Cultural Centre Joint Use and Co-operation Protocol with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, signed on **9 July 2025**, strengthened our partnership to expand the public use of existing heritage buildings.

# EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND OPEN SCIENCE

We develop sustainability literacy through degree programmes, professional education, research and community learning.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, we delivered **46 sustainability-related courses**: **five** at associate-degree level, **19** at undergraduate level and **22** at postgraduate level. Our Eco-Curriculum addresses ecological literacy, sustainable tourism, health, climate action, ethics, equality, cultural heritage and social responsibility. Compulsory sustainability-awareness learning within academic advising classes extends these themes across our student community.

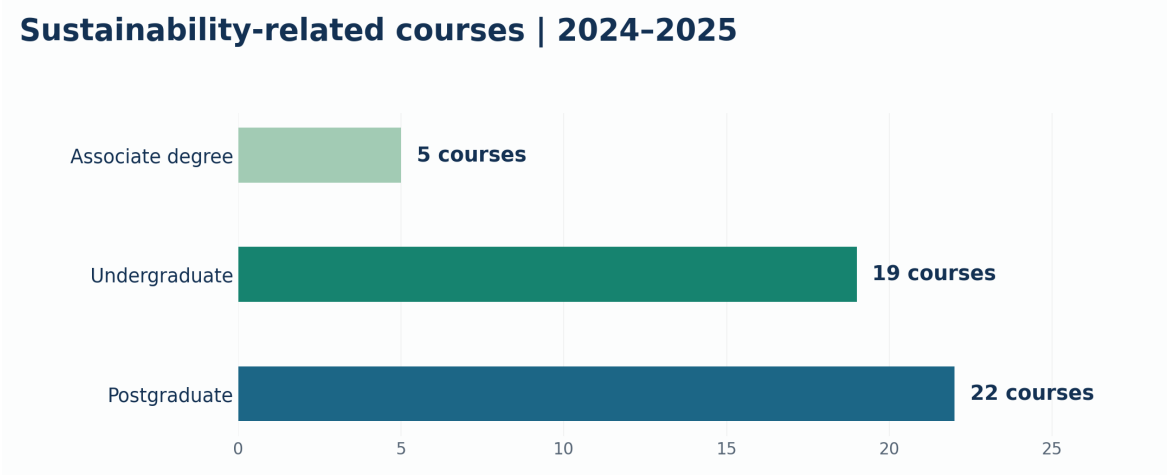



Figure 15. Sustainability-related courses by academic level, 2024–2025.

Across health sciences, tourism, gastronomy, psychology, the humanities, planning and business, our academic programmes address sustainability from complementary disciplinary perspectives. Coursework, project-based learning and applied assessment encourage students to connect scientific knowledge with responsible professional and civic practice.

## Sustainability Education Beyond the Classroom

Our 2024–2025 programme included **98** sustainability-related extracurricular activities, supporting learning through practical workshops, discussion and public engagement. During the same academic year, the Continuing Education Centre delivered **1,512** teaching hours through **157** classes, recorded **3,035** programme participations and introduced **25** new courses and programmes.

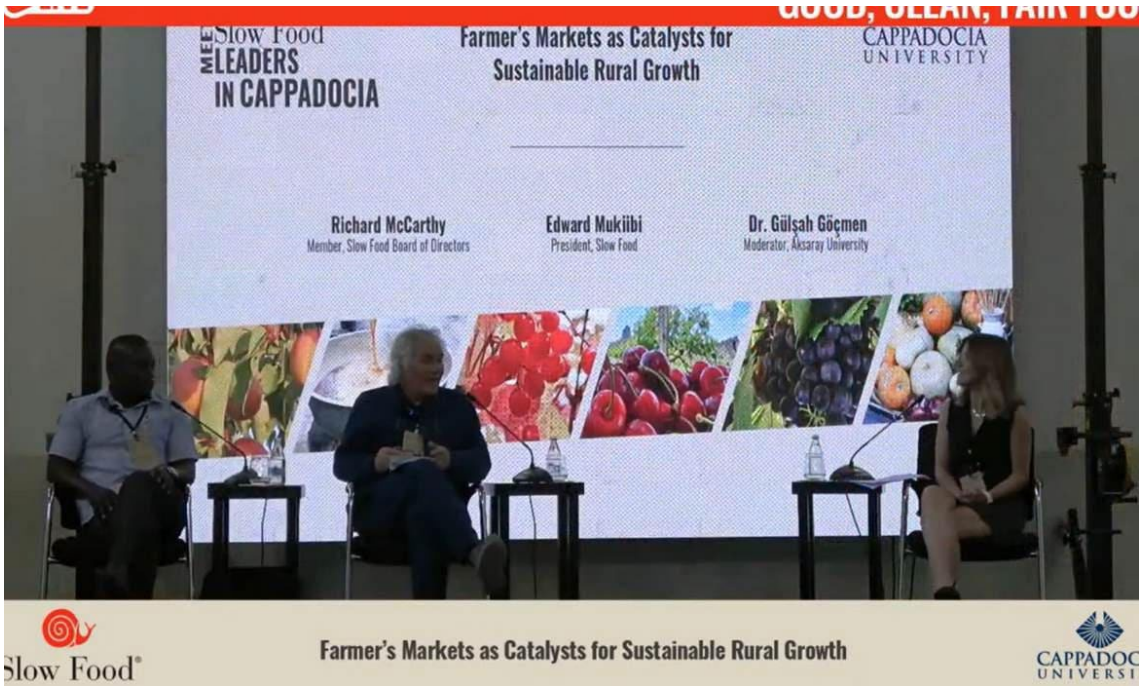



Figure 16. Education on sustainable food systems delivered at our University.

Our 2025 GSTC-related professional training in sustainable tourism and hospitality recorded 113 attendances across three programmes, linking resource management, responsible destination operations and industry standards with lifelong learning.

### Open Science and Sharing Knowledge with Society

Our KÜNASİS academic repository contained **2,705** cumulative records in the 2024–2025 activity period, of which **2,296** were classified as open access. Open materials therefore represented approximately **84.9%** of the recorded repository collection, extending access to scholarly knowledge beyond campus.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2,705** | **2,296** | **84.9%** |
| Cumulative repository records, 2024–2025 | Open-access records | Share available as open access |

Our Continuing Education Centre shares academic and professional knowledge with students, workers, businesses and local communities. Sustainable tourism and hospitality courses, technical training and open learning activities strengthen connections between education, occupational skills and responsible business practice.

### Research and Regional Knowledge Production

Our Scientific Research Projects Commission supports interdisciplinary enquiry and scholarly exchange. Of the **26** scientific meetings recorded in the 2024–2025 academic year, **17** took place during calendar-year 2025. Research themes included freshwater ecology, aquatic biodiversity, advanced materials, artificial intelligence, environmental risk, sustainable tourism and the region's cultural landscapes.

### Research, Innovation and Applied Solutions

Our 2025 research programme brought scientific methods into practical regional challenges. Studies published in Ecohydrology and Aquatic Ecology extended knowledge of biological indicators of river health. **Six technology-oriented Scientific Research Projects** addressed artificial intelligence, materials science and aviation training infrastructure; team-based software and programming activities, including **CodeDocia25**, encouraged applied student innovation. We also contributed research and expertise to regional tourism master plans and sustainable destination criteria.

# HEALTH, EQUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

We promote health, wellbeing, equal opportunity and access to education and professional life.

We contribute to community health through our Oral and Dental Health Application and Research Centre, physical therapy and healthy living services, psychological counselling units and health-related academic programmes. Alongside direct service provision, we engage local communities through preventive health education, school visits, nutrition and physical-activity initiatives.

### Measurable Contributions to Healthcare

Our Oral and Dental Health Application and Research Centre delivered **26,934** clinical procedures during 2025, compared with **21,546** in 2024, an increase of approximately 25%. Its records also include **5,669** patient entries, with **95.22%** satisfaction reported through patient feedback. Preventive outreach complemented clinical care.

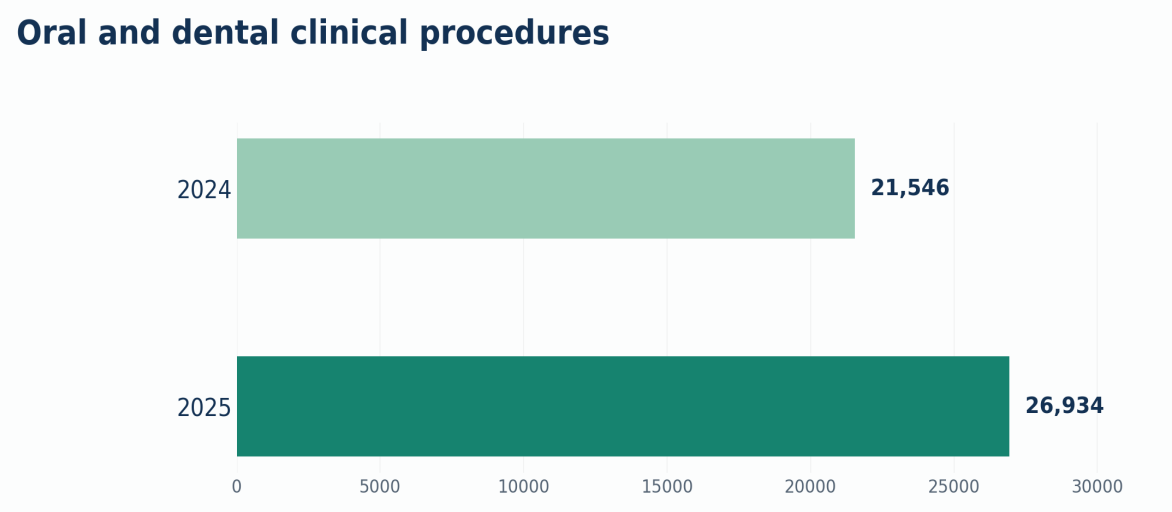



Figure 17. Oral and dental clinical procedures delivered in 2024 and 2025.



Figure 18. Preventive health outreach for different age groups in our communities.

Our preventive health activities brought oral-health education and screening into schools and communities. At Montessori Kindergarten on 19 November 2025, the programme reached 41 participants and received 98% positive overall evaluation feedback. We also provided oral-health education and screening for children in Mustafapaşa on 16 April 2025.

## Student Wellbeing and Preventive Programmes

Our Guidance and Psychological Counselling Unit provided **481** individual counselling sessions to **89** students through three professionals during the 2024–2025 academic year. Seven wellbeing and preventive-awareness seminars recorded **1,868** attendances. Students could access counselling without charge, in person or online, with specialist referral when appropriate.

| 89 | 481 | 1,868 |
|---|---|---|
| Students receiving individual counselling | Psychological counselling sessions | Attendance records across seven seminars |

### Equality, Inclusion and Quality of Life

We advance equal opportunity through our Gender Equality Commission, Accessible KÜN Unit, financial-support programmes and student services. We address discrimination, physical and digital accessibility, participation in higher education and barriers affecting women and economically disadvantaged groups.

Our 2025 workforce records included 712 academic and administrative employees, 359 of whom were women (50.4%). Among 1,515 new degree entrants in the 2024–2025 academic-year return, 571 were first-generation students (37.7%). We also provided 145 students with part-time paid work opportunities in 2024–2025, compared with 108 in the previous academic year. Through ELEVATE, the first training cohort in Hatay reached 20 women entrepreneurs beginning on 7 October 2025.

Through our Accessible KÜN Unit, we co-ordinated physical, academic and administrative accessibility arrangements for students with disabilities. In 2025, our School of Health Sciences qualified as a Green Flag candidate in the Council of Higher Education's Barrier-Free University Awards in recognition of its arrangements for accessibility in education. Tactile surfaces, accessible circulation measures, adapted learning support and individualised student arrangements formed part of our broader inclusion work.

# SOCIAL IMPACT AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

We work with local producers, governments, researchers, civil society and industry partners to connect knowledge with sustainable livelihoods and regional development.

### Slow Food Earth Market: Local Production and Resilience

We opened the Cappadocia–Uçhisar Slow Food Earth Market on 24 May 2025 in partnership with producers, women's groups, municipalities, civil society and development organisations. The market supports direct producer–consumer contact, regional food identity, agroecological awareness and local livelihoods. Producer learning activities and study visits strengthened practical exchange across the network.



Figure 19. Producers, academics and local partners at our 2025 Slow Food programme.

Our international Slow Food programme on 22–24 May 2025 brought approximately 50 representatives from 23 countries into dialogue on agroecology, biodiversity, sustainable food systems and rural development. We continued this exchange through practical workshops and market activities linking food producers with the wider community.

## Scientific Contributions to Public Policy

Our Hatay Tourism Master Plan 2025–2030, prepared with Hatay Metropolitan Municipality and regional stakeholders, set out **58 policies** and **12 vision projects** for sustainable tourism and post-earthquake economic recovery. During 2025, we also supported destination planning and stakeholder engagement in provinces including Konya, Kütahya, Kayseri, Mardin and Kahramanmaraş.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **58** | **12** | **20** |
| **Policies developed for Hatay** | **Vision projects prepared for Hatay** | **Women entrepreneurs in the first ELEVATE cohort** |

Our regional partnerships combine academic analysis, public consultation, professional education and community participation. We support producer networks, women's entrepreneurship, responsible tourism criteria and post-disaster planning through research and practical knowledge exchange.

## Employment, Professional Skills and Industry Engagement

Our career services and 8–9 April 2025 Career Fair connected students and graduates with employers and professional networks. We strengthened pathways into aviation employment through our November 2025 SunExpress co-operation programme, linking workplace learning, placements and potential future recruitment. International technical training delivered with aviation partners in Azerbaijan was completed by **50 aircraft-maintenance technicians** in April 2025. The Council of Higher Education's 2025

monitoring report recorded a **44.40%** entry-to-employment rate within six months for our undergraduate graduates, placing us 18th nationally on that indicator.

### International Standards and Civil-Society Partnerships

We contributed expertise to Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) criteria development and professional learning. Alongside the British Council, the University of Wolverhampton, CARE International Türkiye and other partners, we supported ELEVATE's women's enterprise programme in Hatay. Co-operation with Slow Food, Yuvam Dünya, EkoFilm collaborators, local authorities and civil-society organisations extended our work in sustainability education, climate awareness and community engagement.

Our participation in international research networks, sustainability assessments and professional associations widened opportunities for collaboration and the exchange of practical approaches across countries and disciplines.

# INTEGRATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 17 SDGS AND OUR FUTURE

Our environmental, educational, social and economic contributions reinforce one another across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We advance the 17 Sustainable Development Goals through an integrated approach to institutional governance, campus operations, education, research and community partnerships. Our initiatives connect responsible resource use with ecological stewardship, equitable opportunity, public health, regional enterprise and the conservation of Cappadocia's cultural heritage.




Figure 20. How our work across the 17 SDGs connects within four institutional impact areas.

Together, our programmes connect access to education with economic participation; public health with equality; energy and water management with climate and ecosystem protection; and place-based research with community resilience. Our institutional partnerships help this work reach beyond our campuses.

## Our 2025 Contributions Across the Sustainable Development Goals

Our integrated programme combines measurable operational activity with education, research, policy collaboration and community-facing initiatives. The connections below summarise the year's principal institutional contributions.

| UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL | SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTION IN 2025 |
|---|---|
| **01 · No Poverty** | Need-based scholarship and social-assistance provisions, paid student work and support for local livelihoods. |
| **02 · Zero Hunger** | Slow Food Earth Market, sustainable food learning and local producer engagement. |
| **03 · Good Health and Well-being** | 26,934 oral and dental procedures, preventive outreach and student wellbeing services. |
| **04 · Quality Education** | 46 sustainability-related courses, continuing education and access to open scholarship. |
| **05 · Gender Equality** | Women represented 50.4% of employees; ELEVATE began with 20 women entrepreneurs. |
| **06 · Clean Water and Sanitation** | 25,885 $m^3$ water use monitored; efficiency measures and research on river quality. |
| **07 · Affordable and Clean Energy** | 24.8% lower academic-year electricity consumption; photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. |
| **08 · Decent Work and Economic Growth** | 145 paid student workers, professional training, employer partnerships and regional economic planning. |
| **09 · Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** | Six technology-related BAP projects, practical engineering and computing education. |
| **10 · Reduced Inequalities** | 571 first-generation new entrants, accessibility arrangements and financial support. |
| **11 · Sustainable Cities and Communities** | Heritage building reuse, public cultural programmes, seven shuttles and 90 bicycles. |
| **12 · Responsible Consumption and Production** | 5,415 kg of registered mass-based waste, used-oil recovery and responsible procurement. |
| **13 · Climate Action** | Institutional emissions inventories, climate policy, renewable energy and climate education. |
| **14 · Life Below Water** | Peer-reviewed freshwater ecology, river-basin research and wetland learning. |
| **15 · Life on Land** | Cappadocia Vegetation inventory, ecological research and 2025 nature activities. |
| **16 · Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** | Institutional policies, transparency, open science and community dialogue. |
| **17 · Partnerships for the Goals** | Collaborative programmes with municipalities, universities, civil society and international networks. |

## Priorities Emerging from Our 2025 Performance

Our 2025 results show progress in electricity efficiency, sustainability education, open science and community healthcare. They also highlight priorities for water-demand management, systematic energy accounting, waste-recovery traceability and independent greenhouse gas assurance. We will use these findings to set operational priorities and deepen our assessment of social and environmental outcomes.

### IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

| Priority | Implementation and development focus |
|---|---|
| **Demonstrated progress** | Reduced comparable electricity use; 46 courses; health and open-science outcomes |
| **Resource management** | Facility-level water analysis; improved traceability of final waste treatment |
| **Measurement and assurance** | Consistent energy-accounting boundary; successive verified greenhouse gas inventories |
| **Education and communities** | Assessing sustainability learning outcomes and the impact of partnerships |
| **Institutional disclosure** | Regular public presentation of 17 SDG reports and overall sustainability performance |

## From 2025 Implementation to Our 2030 Goals

Our Climate Action Policy, issued in 2024, guides energy efficiency, renewable resources, adaptation and carbon management. Work during 2025 strengthened monitoring and institutional practice, while additional water-efficiency instruments and the explicit carbon-neutrality policy provision were formalised in 2026. Towards 2030, we will continue improving energy and water efficiency, emissions assurance, biodiversity stewardship, equitable access and community partnership.

Sustainability is a continuing responsibility shared by our leadership, educators, researchers, administrative colleagues, students and partners. We will build on the work of 2025 through consistent measurement, rigorous scholarship, practical environmental improvement and an enduring commitment to the communities and landscapes of Cappadocia.