

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2026

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Boğaziçi University

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Boğaziçi University's Vision for Sustainable Development

Our vision of sustainable development emphasises that humanity must live in harmony with the natural world in order for all communities to survive and prosper in a sustainable future. This vision includes the goal of creating a living environment where future generations can meet their needs by establishing a balanced relationship with nature. As Boğaziçi University, we combine our missions of education, research and community service with the principles of sustainable development.



Our vision expresses a Boğaziçi University community that produces innovative solutions for the benefit of people and the planet, is environmentally conscious and enriches society. We are committed to minimising our impact on nature and the environment by taking concrete steps such as energy management, waste reduction, and reducing our carbon footprint across the campus. Furthermore, this vision and our Sustainability Report aim to support the achievement of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to global collaborations.

Thus, it will continue to be one of our most important goals to move our university to a leading position in the field of sustainability by working with all our stakeholders to leave a more livable world for the future.

FOREWORD

We Fulfil Our Responsibility for a Sustainable Future



Sustainability at Boğaziçi University is a commitment embedded in how we teach, conduct research, manage our campuses and engage with society, and this year's results show that it is bearing fruit. In the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability, our overall score has risen every year since 2024. In the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026, we placed in the 101–200 band with an overall score of 89, our best result since we first took part in 2020, and rank 12th in the world for Sustainable Cities and Communities, 27th for No Poverty and 48th for Zero Hunger.

These results remind us of the work ahead. Our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions stood at 12,304 tCO_2e in 2025, and reaching our target of a 50 per cent reduction by 2030 will require sustained investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. We will continue to report our progress openly and to strengthen the partnerships we have built as host of UN SDSN Turkey since 2014.

I thank all our colleagues who volunteered their time and expertise in preparing this report. Their dedication reflects our shared commitment to a sustainable future.

Mehmet Naci İNCİ
Rector of Boğaziçi University

From Vision to Targets

Boğaziçi University approaches sustainability as a feature of everyday institutional practice rather than as a separate programme of activity. Environmental awareness is encouraged through the curriculum and through the ordinary routines of campus life, and members of the University community are expected to take an active part in it. Priority is given to preventing environmental pollution, improving the management of energy and natural resources, reducing emissions and waste generation, extending recovery and reuse practices, and protecting the historical, cultural and green fabric of the campuses. Through this work the University seeks recognition, nationally and internationally, for an exemplary model of sustainable campus life.

The University's vision is to be a successful, sustainable and green institution in education and research at universal standards. The 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, approved by the University Senate, translates that vision into three strategic objectives, each carrying targets for the end of the planning period.

1.
Environmental Sustainability

1.1 Awards received by the University in environmental fields.

1.2 Activities organised to raise environmental awareness.

1.3 Coordination of sustainability projects through a dedicated unit.

2.
Education and Social Sustainability

2.1 Professional training certificates issued by SEM and DİLMER.

2.2 Expansion of open lectures and awareness activities. The number of public lectures will be increased and the strategies developed for environmental protection will be communicated to a wider audience.

2.3 Coordination of student social responsibility projects.

3.
Institutional and Campus Sustainability

3.1 Energy efficiency transformation of campus buildings.

3.2 Promotion of environmentally friendly vehicles for transport within the campuses.

3.3 Use of corporate data management systems in support of sustainability.

Coordination and archiving across administrative units are carried out on digital platforms through the big-data work of the Corporate Data Management Directorate, which also supplies the indicators on which this report is based.

Progress towards these objectives is measured against a 2017 baseline, the first year in which Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions were recorded in full, at 12,552.16 tCO_2e. In 2025 the corresponding figure stood at 12,304 tCO_2e, about 2 per cent below the baseline. The University's target is a 50 per cent reduction by 2030, which requires the annual total to fall below 6,276 tCO_2e, a further reduction of some 6,028 tCO_2e from the 2025 level. The distance still to be covered is therefore far greater than the ground gained since 2017, and closing it depends on the energy efficiency and renewable supply measures set out in the sections that follow.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS | Turkey

Boğaziçi University United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Turkey Representative Office

SDSN Turkey Members and Stakeholders Meeting 2025 at Boğaziçi University

Hosted by Boğaziçi University since 2014, this year's Members and Stakeholders Meeting organised under the **UN SDSN Turkey** initiative was held at the South Campus under the theme 'SDSN Initiatives in Light of Current Developments'.





Times Higher Education
Sustainability
Impact Ratings 2026

Boğaziçi University in the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026

Boğaziçi University placed in the **101–200** band of the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026, with an overall score of 89 out of 100 and submissions across all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. This is the highest position and the highest score the University has recorded since it first entered the exercise in 2020.

Scores by Sustainable Development Goal

SDG	Score	World rank
1 · No Poverty	84.3	27
2 · Zero Hunger	81.1	48
3 · Good Health and Well-being	58.2	401–600
4 · Quality Education	76.4	80
5 · Gender Equality	67.6	85
6 · Clean Water and Sanitation	80.0	85
7 · Affordable and Clean Energy	70.4	58
8 · Decent Work and Economic Growth	63.0	301–400
9 · Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	93.9	63
10 · Reduced Inequalities	63.7	201–300
11 · Sustainable Cities and Communities	89.5	12
12 · Responsible Consumption and Production	77.8	101–200
13 · Climate Action	71.9	69
14 · Life Below Water	79.0	73
15 · Life on Land	82.3	81
16 · Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	63.2	201–300
17 · Partnerships for the Goals	79.1	201–300

Boğaziçi University in the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026

The rating, published until this year as the Impact Rankings, was restructured for the 2026 edition and now covers more than 1,600 institutions from 116 countries. Universities are assessed against indicators designed separately for each SDG and grouped under four headings: research, stewardship of resources, outreach, and teaching. Entry to the overall table requires evidence for SDG 17 together with at least three further goals. Boğaziçi University submitted evidence for all seventeen.

Full marks for published SDG reporting

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals is the compulsory goal of the assessment and carries 22 per cent of the overall score. Within it, the University received the full 100 points on the Publication of SDG reports indicator, having prepared and published separate reports for each of the seventeen goals. These reports are available on the Corporate Data Management Directorate website.

https://kurumsalveri.bogazici.edu.tr/tr/pages/surdurulebilir-kalkinma-amaclari-ska-raporlar/1082

Position over time

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
301–400	301–400	201–300	401–600	601–800	201–300	101–200

About the assessment

The Sustainability Impact Ratings are the only global performance table that assesses universities against all seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Research indicators are derived from Elsevier bibliometric data, while evidence of institutional policy and practice is reviewed independently. The 2026 results were announced at the THE Global Sustainable Development Congress in Jakarta, Indonesia.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2026 SDG REPORTS

SDG Performance at a Glance

Each Sustainable Development Goal is documented in a dedicated 2026 report, available on the Corporate Data Management Directorate website. The cards below combine the University's 2026 THE Sustainability Impact Ratings result for each goal with one highlight taken from the corresponding SDG report.



SDG 1 · No Poverty

World rank **27** Score **84.3** / 100

446,696,276 TRY in scholarships across 9,264 scholarship items in the 2024–2025 academic year.



SDG 2 · Zero Hunger

World rank **48** Score **81.1** / 100

Campus dining services for approximately 13,000 students and 2,000 staff; dining halls with a simultaneous capacity of 1,734 people.



SDG 3 · Good Health and Well-being

World rank **401–600**

Score **58.2** / 100

Boğaziçi LifeSci operates on an area of approximately 7,500 m²; in 2023, 27 people received basic first aid training and 857 attended first aid awareness seminars.



SDG 4 · Quality Education

World rank **80** Score **76.4** / 100

The Library holds 4,182,853 resources, and the GETEM digital library offers 58,514 accessible materials.



SDG 5 · Gender Equality

World rank **85** Score **67.6** / 100

Women accounted for 47.4% of the 1,894 associate and bachelor's graduates in 2024–2025.



SDG 6 · Clean Water and Sanitation

World rank **85** Score **80.0** / 100

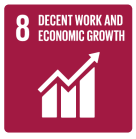
Grey water recovery in the 1st Men's Dormitory recycled 1,200 m³, corresponding to 15% of its water use.



SDG 7 · Affordable and Clean Energy

World rank **58** Score **70.4** / 100

Energy management certified to ISO 50001:2018; 75 condensing boilers operate in cascade and six electric vehicle charging stations serve the campuses.



SDG 8 · Decent Work and Economic Growth

World rank **301–400**

Score **63.0** / 100

QS 2027: graduate employment rate of 89.6% and an Employment Outcomes score of 99.4; 44.7% of the 463 full-time faculty members are women.



SDG 9 · Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

World rank **63** Score **93.9** / 100

Nine awards at the ISIF'24 International Invention Fair: two gold medals, six silver medals and the Best Academic Invention award.



SDG 10 · Reduced Inequalities

World rank **201–300**

Score **63.7** / 100

555 international students in 2024–2025; 65% of newly enrolled students came from outside Istanbul.



SDG 11 · Sustainable Cities and Communities

World rank **12** Score **89.5** / 100

The University library is being rebuilt with a 2 billion TRY investment, complemented by a 3 billion TRY laboratory facility and conference hall.



SDG 12 · Responsible Consumption and Production

World rank **101–200**

Score **77.8** / 100

78.2 tonnes of waste delivered to recycling in 2025, including 33,430 kg of food waste and 6,305 kg of waste oil.



SDG 13 · Climate Action

World rank **69** Score **71.9** / 100

Kandilli Observatory maintains a continuous climate record spanning 115 years.



SDG 14 · Life Below Water

World rank **73** Score **79.0** / 100

The Boğaziçi University Underwater Sports Club (BÜSAS) trains approximately 100 new divers every year in scuba diving and freediving.



SDG 15 · Life on Land

World rank **81** Score **82.3** / 100

More than 1,200 plant species on the South Campus flora route; rare endemic species such as sand lilies are protected.



SDG 16 · Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

World rank **201–300**

Score **63.2** / 100

The Student Representative Board (ÖTK) is elected by undergraduate and graduate students; annual financial status and expectations reports are published so that the University's financial performance can be monitored transparently.



SDG 17 · Partnerships for the Goals

World rank **201–300**

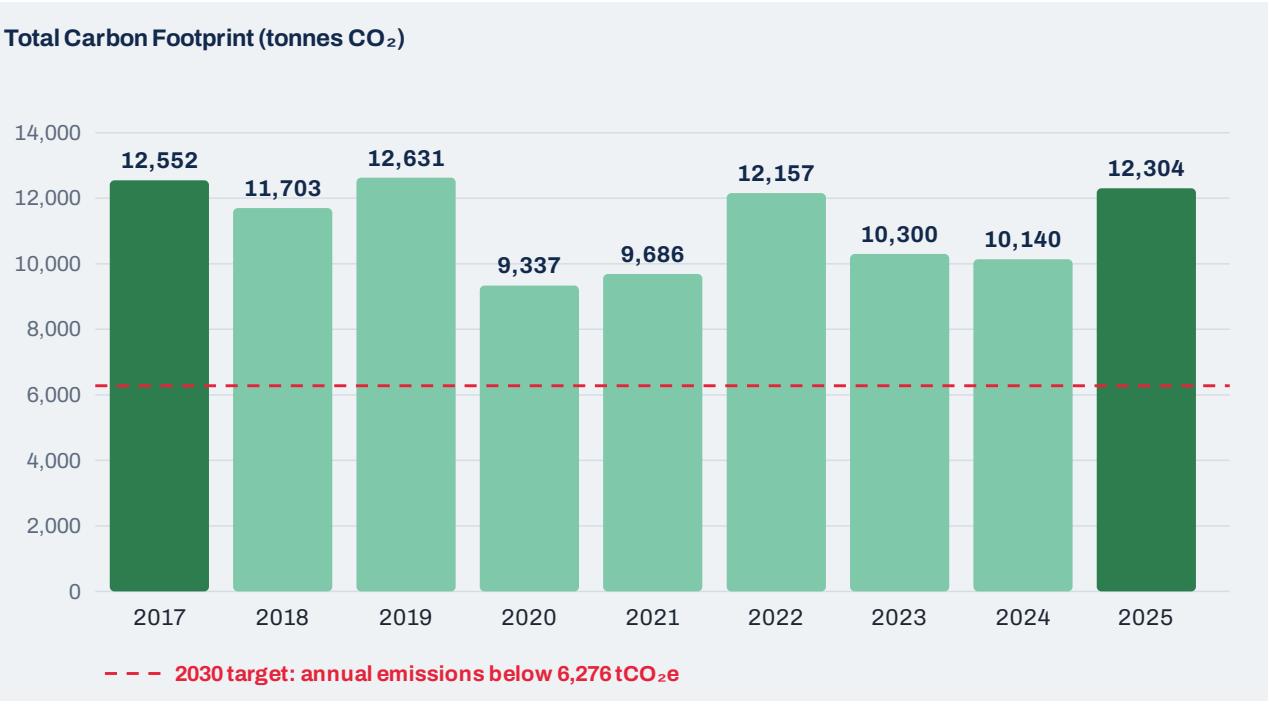
Score **79.1** / 100

59 courses on environmental sustainability and climate science, totalling 577 ECTS, across three academic terms; host of UN SDSN Turkey since 2014.

Sources: Boğaziçi University SDG 1–17 Progress Reports 2026 and THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026. All reports: kurumsalveri.bogazici.edu.tr

Scope 1 and Scope 2 Emissions: Baseline, Target and Current Position

Where We Started	Aim	Our Progress
Boğaziçi University Scope 1 + Scope 2 Total Emissions Value **12,552.16** (tonnes CO_2) **2017**	**50%** Reduction in Scope 1 + Scope 2 Emissions (below 6,276 tCO_2e) **2030** Net-zero carbon target: 2050	Boğaziçi University Scope 1 + Scope 2 Total Emissions Value **12,304** (tonnes CO_2) **2025**



These data on carbon dioxide emissions provide the basis on which the University assesses its environmental impact and monitors progress towards its sustainability goals. The record since 2017, the first year in which data were collected in full, has not been linear. The marked fall recorded in 2020 and 2021 owed much to the pandemic, as restrictions and remote working reduced energy consumption across the campuses; emissions returned to earlier levels once normal activity resumed. The figure for 2025, at 12,304 tCO_2e, represents an increase of 21 per cent on the previous year and returns the total to within two per cent of the 2017 baseline. Meeting the 2030 target requires annual emissions below 6,276 tCO_2e. The University reports that distance openly, and the energy efficiency and renewable supply measures described in the following sections are directed towards closing it.

FROM THE ISO 14064-1 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY REPORT

Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2025

The University's greenhouse gas inventory for January–December 2025 has been prepared in accordance with the ISO 14064-1:2018 Standard and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol: Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, and is verified by independent auditors. During the reporting period, the University's carbon footprint, including value-chain emissions, was calculated as 14,664.76 tonnes of CO_2-equivalent.

14,664.76
tCO_2e total carbon footprint (Scopes 1–3), 2025

12,304.59
tCO_2e Scope 1 + Scope 2, the basis of the 12,304 tCO_2e reported on page 12

ISO 14064-1
inventory verified by independent auditors

Emissions by Scope

Scope (01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025)	tCO_2e	Share
Scope 1 Direct Emissions	**5,615.90**	**38.29%**
Scope 2 Indirect Emissions (electricity)	**6,688.69**	**45.61%**
Scope 3 Value Chain Emissions	**2,360.17**	**16.09%**
Total Emissions	**14,664.76**	**100%**

Emission Sources and Distribution



- Electricity Consumption **45.61%**
- Natural Gas Consumption **34.73%**
- Scope 3 (Value Chain) **16.09%**
- Stationary and Mobile Combustion **3.57%**

Scope 1: Direct Emissions

- Natural gas consumption (2,351,144 m^3): 5,092.69 tCO_2e, 90.68% of Scope 1.
- Refrigerant gas leaks: 280.25 tCO_2e, 4.99% of Scope 1.

Scope 2: Purchased Electricity

- 15,411,730.56 kWh of electricity: 6,688.69 tCO_2e, 100% of Scope 2.

Scope 3: Value Chain

- Well-to-Tank (WTT) emissions: 849.12 tCO_2e (35.98%).
- Capital goods: 434.95 tCO_2e (18.43%).
- Business travel: 412.59 tCO_2e (17.48%).
- Employees' commutes: 280.65 tCO_2e (11.89%).

Source: Boğaziçi University Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2025 (ISO 14064-1), reporting date 08/04/2026.

FROM THE SDG 12 REPORT

Zero Waste and Recycling in 2025

78.2 t
delivered to recycling in 2025

33,430 kg
food waste recycled

100%
of 6,305 kg waste oil converted to biodiesel

Food and Oil Waste

Type	2025
Total Food Waste	**50,993 kg**
Total Food Recycled	**33,430 kg**
Total Oil Waste	**6,305 kg**
Total Oil Waste Recycling	**6,305 kg**

Separately Collected Waste

Type	2025
Paper	**23,420 kg**
Plastic	**11,660 kg**
Glass	**970 kg**
Chemical	**850 kg**
Medical	**1,545 kg**

All waste amounts in the tables above have been delivered to recycling. The 78.2-tonne total is the sum of the separately collected waste, the recycled food waste and the recycled waste oil.

Boğaziçi University holds a Ministry-approved Basic Level Zero Waste Certificate. Waste is separated at source through six-stream colour-coded sets for paper, plastic, glass, metal, organic and household waste, and hazardous and medical waste are tracked through licensed monitoring systems (TABS and MOTAT).

Source: Boğaziçi University SDG 12 Progress Report 2026.

Artificial Intelligence in Earthquake Detection: A One-Million-Dollar Grant from Google

The Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (KOERI) has received an unrestricted grant of one million US dollars from Google in support of the Türkiye Artificial Intelligence Supported Earthquake Detection and Early Warning Project. The project is led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çağrı Diner of the Department of Geophysics and brings modern artificial intelligence architectures into the Institute's existing seismic monitoring infrastructure.

Models trained on data specific to Türkiye. Rather than adopting established models as they stand, the research team will train them from the outset using crustal velocity models specific to Türkiye and the station geometry of Kandilli's own seismic network. The resulting models are to be integrated directly into operational systems, where they will support automated, high-precision earthquake detection and early warning workflows.



One of the principal advantages of the technology lies in its capacity to analyse signals from a single station with high precision. In disaster risk reduction the gain of even a few seconds carries decisive weight, and improvement of this order in seismic data processing has direct consequences for public safety.

Investment in the next generation of researchers. The project is as much a commitment to qualified human resources as it is a technological undertaking. The work will contribute directly to the training of Boğaziçi University students and researchers who will specialise at the intersection of seismology, signal processing and artificial intelligence.

INTEGRATOR: Horizon Europe Funding for a Project Coordinated by Boğaziçi University

The project entitled INTEGRATOR: Integrated Innovation Ecosystems for Transformative Nexus Governance towards Enhanced Water Resilience has been selected for funding under the Horizon Europe Programme, with Boğaziçi University acting as coordinator. The award was made through the two-stage 2025 calls under Cluster 6 of the programme, which covers food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and the environment. The consortium brings together eighteen partners from eleven countries.



A data-based framework for water management. The project responds to the mounting pressures that climate change places on the water cycle. It aims to develop a data-based framework for water management that integrates digital twins, multi-scale monitoring systems and advanced modelling approaches, and through this to contribute to the sustainable management of water resources.

The research team. The work is carried out by researchers from the Institute of Environmental Sciences: Asst. Prof. Dr. İrem Daloğlu, Prof. Dr. Nadim Copty, Prof. Dr. Raşit Bilgin and Asst. Prof. Dr. Cem İskender Aydın. The coordinating role is itself significant. Leading a consortium of this size places the University at the centre of an international research effort rather than among its contributors, and the project connects directly to several of the commitments reported here: the sustainable management of water resources (SDG 6), resilience against the effects of climate change (SDG 13), and international research partnership (SDG 17).

Boğaziçi University Leading the Way in Sustainability with Carbon-Negative Biorefinery

Boğaziçi University has taken an important step towards its carbon neutrality goals with the establishment of the **Istanbul Microalgae Biotechnologies Research and Development Unit (IMBİYOTAB)** at its Sarıtepe Campus, realising the first carbon-negative biorefinery in Türkiye and Europe. Ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye, emphasised the great importance of the facility for a carbon-neutral world and stated that more resources should be allocated to R&D in the field of environmental sustainability.



IMBİYOTAB and Carbon-Negative Biorefinery

The INDEPENDENT Project, led by **Dr. Berat HAZNEDAROĞLU** from Boğaziçi University Institute of Environmental Sciences, offers solutions for energy, food, health and environment sectors with algae-based biotechnological products. This integrated biorefinery plays a critical role in reducing carbon emissions by producing completely algae-based products. The facility develops products such as **biofuels, antioxidant pigments, bio-fertilisers** as an alternative to fossil fuels and offers a **zero-waste** based production model.

Europe's First Carbon-Negative Biorefinery

Boğaziçi University's **carbon-negative** biorefinery facility is directly in line with the European Union's Green Deal targets. The ability to grow algae in a short time and produce it without the need for soil offers an important solution to agricultural sustainability and food crises. Sarıtepe Campus, which provides its energy entirely from wind turbines, has been carbon neutral **since 2015**. Haznedaroğlu points out that algae-based biofuels, developed through projects on biofuel technologies for use in aircraft, can reduce carbon emissions by 76%.

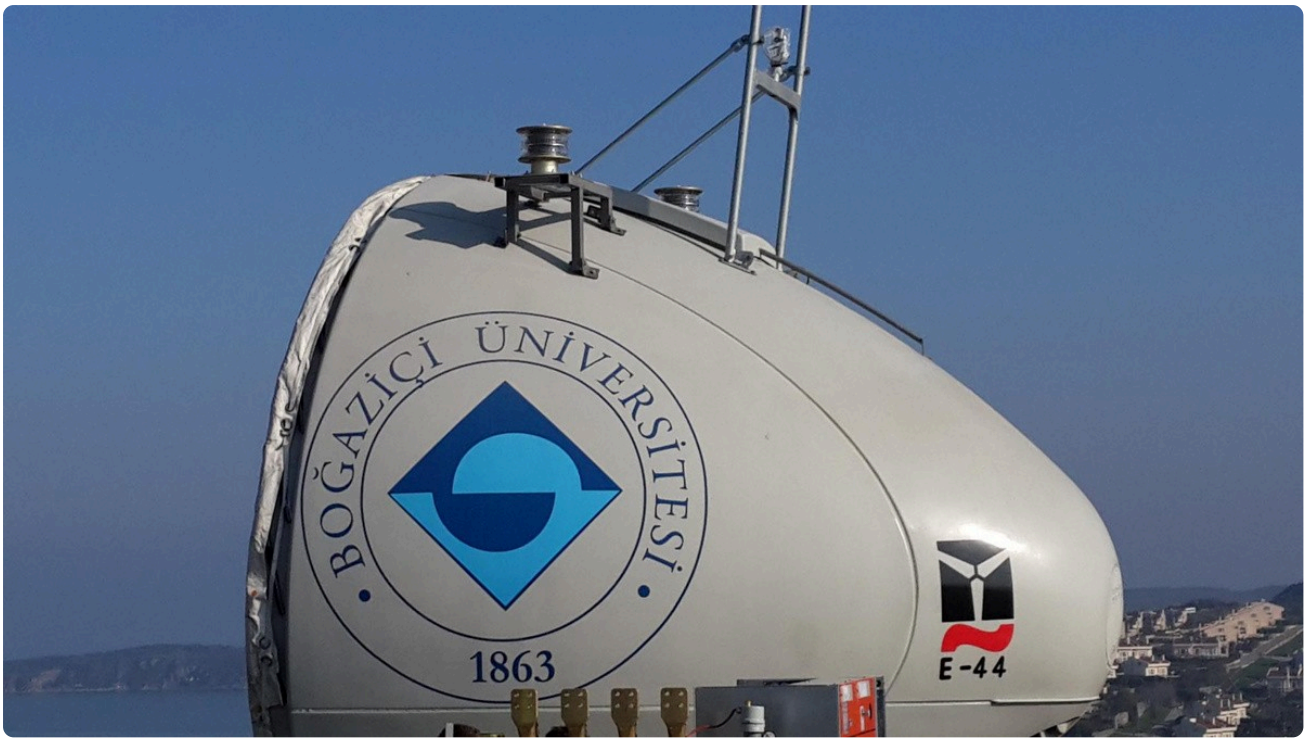


Zero Waste Targeted Sustainable Production

The INDEPENDENT Project develops biotechnological products to **reduce Türkiye's current account deficit in the energy** and health sectors, while also providing technology transfer and consultancy services to industry. The project enables SMEs operating in sectors such as petrochemicals, cosmetics and textiles to increase their R&D capacities. The zero-waste based structure of the project supports circular economy principles and contributes to environmental sustainability.

Green Campus Vision

Boğaziçi University's Green Campus goals were included in its strategic plans in 2010 and in 2014 it was selected by the UN as the national unit of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Many sustainability-oriented projects such as wind energy and grey water treatment projects are being carried out at the Kilyos Campus. Thanks to the **BÜRES wind turbine**, the campus meets most of its own electricity needs; together with the photovoltaic systems, it generated **544,761 kWh** of electricity in 2025, with excess energy exported to the grid.



Boğaziçi University aims to **ensure environmental**, economic and social sustainability by developing innovative projects for a sustainable world with **zero carbon emission** and circular economy principles. These projects, which will set an example in Europe and around the world, make a significant contribution to achieving the goals of the **Paris Climate Agreement.**

Boğaziçi University Kandilli Science, Technology and Research Building: Sustainability and Scientific Innovation

Boğaziçi University draws attention in the national and international arena with the **Kandilli Science, Technology and Research Building**, one of the important steps it has taken in the field of sustainable development and technology-based scientific research. This centre, which is also called 'Deep Technology Base', makes significant contributions to both Türkiye's National Technology Initiative and sustainable scientific research.

10,000 m²
TOTAL SPACE

3,600 m²
LABORATORY SPACE

800 m²
STARTUP CENTER

Sustainable Development in Health Technologies

Life Sciences and Technologies Application Research Centre **(LifeSci)** aims to reduce Türkiye's foreign dependency in the health ecosystem by developing artificial intelligence-supported solutions in cancer diagnosis and treatment. The targeted drug delivery systems and digitalisation projects developed both improve health by offering more effective treatments and form the cornerstones of a sustainable health infrastructure.






Sustainable Energy and Environmental Technologies

The synthetic natural gas production from coal project aims to reduce Türkiye's current use of fossil fuels and support the transition to environmentally friendly energy by providing sustainable energy solutions. Together with this project, the studies carried out on clean energy technologies contribute to minimising the negative impacts of fossil fuels on the environment. The project makes a significant contribution to Boğaziçi University's **zero carbon emission** targets.



EXPLORE ALL REPORTS

2026 Dashboard and Summary Reports for SDGs 1–17

Every Sustainable Development Goal has its own 2026 report with a dashboard, detailed evidence and news from across the University. Select a goal below to open the SDG reports page; select the final tile to open the University's sustainability reports, including the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2025.



SDG 1–17 Reports
kurumsalveri.bogazici.edu.tr/tr/pages/surdurulebilir-kalkinma-amaclari-ska-raporlar/1082

Sustainability Reports & GHG Inventory
kurumsalveri.bogazici.edu.tr/tr/pages/surdurulebilirlik-raporlari/1063

Learn More

As Boğaziçi University, we hope that this report will help you review our progress and future steps in our sustainability journey. Our university transparently reports its sustainability performance every year. You can visit our sustainability website to learn more about Boğaziçi University's sustainability initiatives and how you can contribute to this process. Your insights, suggestions, and feedback are highly valued and essential to our continuous improvement.

E-mail	kurumsalveri@bogazici.edu.tr
Web	https://kurumsalveri.bogazici.edu.tr
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