

Boğaziçi University Statement of Intent on Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Investment Policy

As Boğaziçi University, we integrate our missions of education, research and service to society with the principles of sustainable development. Guided by our belief that humanity must live in harmony with the natural world for the sake of human well-being, we regard the creation of an “exemplary sustainable living environment” on our campuses as one of our primary objectives. In line with this environment- and society-focused vision, we commit to shaping our institutional policies, infrastructure investments and financial strategies within the framework of the following core principles:

1. Net Zero Target and Climate Change Strategy

In the fight against climate change, we do not merely declare our intentions; we are moving forward with measurable and time-bound targets.

- **Emissions Reduction Targets (Actions):** In line with our vision to reduce our carbon footprint, we are firmly committed to achieving a 50% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching the ‘Net Zero’ emissions target by 2050.
- **International Recognition (Achievements):** Our global impact is recognised by our ranking 352nd in the QS Sustainability Rankings and within the 201–300 range in the THE Sustainability Impact Rankings. We have demonstrated our leadership in clean energy by ranking 23rd globally in the ‘Affordable and Clean Energy’ (SDG 7) category.

2. Renewable Energy, Green Infrastructure and Environmental Projects

We are elevating our university’s physical spaces and campus operations to the pinnacle of sustainability standards.

- **Renewable Energy Production (Achievements):** Thanks to the BÜRES wind turbine at our Kilyos Campus, we generate approximately 1.7 million kWh of electricity annually, meeting a significant portion of the campus’s electricity needs, and have been progressing towards carbon neutrality since 2015.
- **Carbon-Negative Technology (Achievements):** Through İMBİYOTAB, Turkey’s and Europe’s first carbon-negative biorefinery established at our Sarıtepe Campus as part of the INDEPENDENT Project, we process 1,200 tonnes of wet algae biomass annually, producing biofuels as alternatives to fossil fuels under a zero-waste principle.
- **Green Buildings (Achievements):** Four of the buildings constructed on our campuses hold international LEED Green Building Certification (3 Gold, 1 Silver).
- **Sustainable Campus Management (Achievements and Future Plans):** We will continue to develop our environmentally responsible campus life through zero-waste targets, energy recovery systems, rainwater harvesting projects and greywater treatment facilities.

3. Sustainable Investment, Procurement and Research Focus Areas

We are directing our financial and academic investments towards deep technologies that will serve the sustainability of our country and our world.

- **Deep Technology and Clean Energy Investments (Achievements and Future Plans):** Through our hubs such as the Kandilli Science, Technology and Research Building and the Centre for Life Sciences and Technologies (LifeSci), we are investing in clean energy technologies and funding sustainable scientific research that will reduce external dependency.
- **Sustainable Procurement (Plans):** We will publish a publicly accessible sustainable procurement policy for our university's procurement processes, based on the environmental impacts and sustainability principles (supply chain transparency, preference for green products, etc.) of the organisations from which we procure services.

4. Social Sustainability, Equal Opportunities and Global Networks

We are creating a holistic ecosystem by supporting our environmental goals with gender equality and inclusivity.

- **Global Partnerships (Achievements):** Since 2014, we have been hosting the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) Turkey Office, leading the way towards national goals.
- **Equal Opportunities and Social Support (Achievements):** In line with our global rankings in the areas of No Poverty (SDG 1) and Quality Education (SDG 4), we provided our students with over 173.8 million TL in scholarships during the 2023–2024 academic year.
- **Gender Equality (Achievements and Future Plans):** With a female academic staff ratio of 44.6%, we have embedded equality at the core of our institutional culture and continue to enhance visibility within academia through our Gender Equality Plan.

As Boğaziçi University, we declare that our greatest institutional responsibility is to uphold this leading position on the national and international stage and, by working hand in hand with all our stakeholders, to bequeath a more liveable, sustainable and equitable world to future generations.