



CLIMATE ACTION REPORT 2024



ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY



SDG 13
CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

SDG 13 Climate Action, one of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), provides a global framework for mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, strengthening resilience to climate disasters, and accelerating the transition to a low-carbon future. Climate change is a global crisis that directly impacts ecosystems, economic activity, health conditions, and the well-being of societies.

Universities are crucial stakeholders in combating climate change through the production of scientific knowledge, the development of sustainable energy solutions, policy recommendations, public awareness campaigns, and educational activities. In this context, SDG 13 is not only an environmental goal but also a global responsibility requiring urgent action, impacting the achievement of all SDGs.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF CLIMATE ACTION

Achieving corporate sustainability goals is supported by effective measures against climate change, long-term environmental policies, and strong governance principles. Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) embraces inclusive stakeholder engagement and a transparent and accountable management approach in line with its strategic plans and sustainability policies. This approach creates a broad impact through research focused on climate action, environmental responsibility projects, and multi-stakeholder collaborations, contributing to building a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.



CLIMATE ACTION

IGU for "Ecological, Social and Economic Sustainability"





IGU CORPORATE PROFILE

IGU VISION

IGU is a foundation university based in Istanbul, founded in 2008 and granted university status in 2011. Since its founding, IGU has embraced the mission of enhancing quality, accessibility, and diversity in higher education, embracing education, research, and community service as its core activities. The university aims to educate its students as individuals committed to scientific ethical values, capable of creative thinking, aware of sustainability, and internationally competent.

To this end, it continuously updates its educational programs with a student-centered approach and focuses on developing qualified graduates who meet the needs of the age. IGU's institutional values include respect for individual differences, openness and transparency, an interdisciplinary approach, the principle of sustainability, collaboration with the real sector, and a commitment to continuous improvement. The university contributes to knowledge production by conducting research activities at both national and international levels, and enhances its impact on society through social responsibility projects and public-private partnerships. Within the scope of the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, the vision is to create a global impact in the field of higher education and to contribute to the development of societies with qualified knowledge.

IGU INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- Establishment year: 2008 (Vocational School), 2011 (University status)
- Number of faculties: 7
- Number of institutes: 1
- Number of colleges: 1
- Number of vocational schools: 2
- Number of research centers: 22
- Number of laboratories and workshops: 145
- Total number of students (2024): 37,918
- Location: Türkiye, Istanbul, Avcılar
- Library: 1 central library and 4 branch libraries
- Strategic Planning Period: [2024–2028](#)



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the esteemed academics, administrative staff, employees, students, alumni, and internal and external stakeholders of Istanbul Gelisim University for their contributions to the development of this report. We would also like to thank the esteemed academics, administrative staff, students, alumni, and internal and external stakeholders of Istanbul Gelisim University for their contributions to the preparation of this report. We would also like to thank all university members and stakeholders who have embraced and worked towards the sustainability goals outlined in this report, as well as the university Board of Trustees and the Rector's Office for their unwavering support in these endeavors.

We would also like to thank our Board of Trustees and the Rectorate for their support in ensuring that our vision for climate action is adopted university-wide and that our sustainability goals are strengthened.

Istanbul Gelisim University



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13.1 RESEARCH ON CLIMATE ACTION

IGU strengthens scientific knowledge production in the field of climate action within the scope of sustainable development goals. The university conducts research across various disciplines on climate change mitigation, carbon footprint management, sustainable energy solutions, and low-carbon technologies.

According to the Scopus database, a total of **240 academic publications** were published within the scope of SDG 13 between 2021 and 2024. Most of this research was conducted through interdisciplinary collaborations, published internationally, and supported scientific sharing on open-access platforms.

13.1.1 Climate Action: CiteScore

IGU encourages publication in high-impact journals to improve the quality of scientific studies conducted within the context of climate action. As of 2024, a significant portion of publications within the scope of SDG13 in the Scopus database were published in journals with a CiteScore score.

This data demonstrates that the university's strategy to increase the global scientific impact and citation capacity of its research on climate change and sustainability is progressing well.

13.1.2 Climate Action: FWCI (Field-Weighted Citation Impact)

IGU also tracks the international scientific impact of climate action research using the FWCI (Field-Weighted Citation Impact) indicator. The FWCI value reveals the impact of publications based on their respective citation averages.

As of 2024, some of the studies published under SDG 13 have FWCI values comparable to the global average. This demonstrates that the university's climate change and sustainability research is highly visible within the scientific community and has a significant international impact.



CLIMATE ACTION

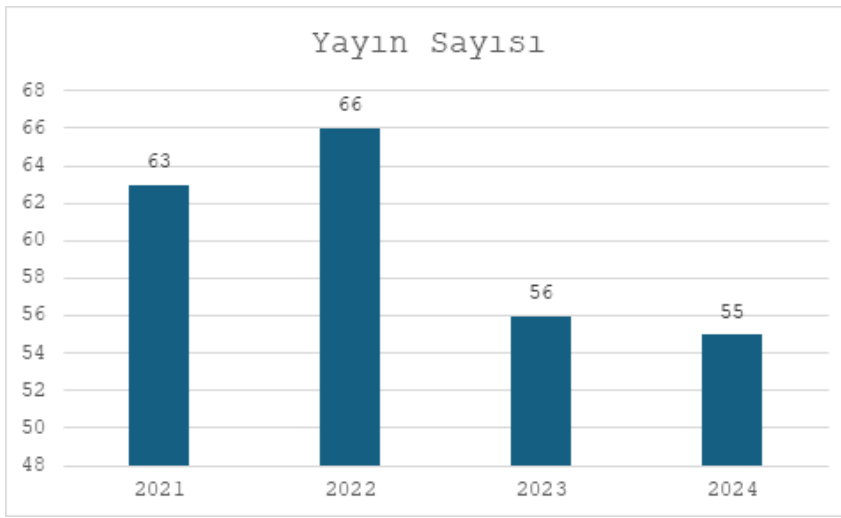
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13.1.3 Climate Action: Number of Publications

IGU continuously contributes to scientific studies on climate action within the scope of the sustainable development goals. According to Scopus database data, the number of academic publications published within the scope of SDG 13 for the last four years is as follows:

Table 1. Distribution of Publications by Year



In total, **240** publications were published between 2021 and 2024. These publications cover a wide range of topics, including the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate change, carbon footprint management, sustainable energy systems, low-carbon technologies, and climate policy development.

The diversity of publications demonstrates the university's growing academic capacity in climate action and its effective contribution to global scientific knowledge production.

13.2 LOW CARBON ENERGY USE (2024)

IGU has strengthened its sustainable energy management practices to increase the use of low-carbon resources in energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions. Energy consumption across the campus was regularly monitored in 2024, and efficiency-enhancing measures were implemented.





13.2.1 Low Carbon Energy Tracking

IGU regularly monitors and reports all energy sources used on its campuses. Electricity, natural gas, and diesel consumption data are monitored monthly, and measurements are taken to calculate carbon emissions. This monitoring has become a key tool in implementing sustainability strategies and increasing low-carbon energy use.

Thanks to the energy management system, energy consumption across the campus is regularly monitored, and efficiency-enhancing practices (automatic lighting, energy-saving appliances, insulation reinforcement, etc.) are implemented.

IGU presents these monitoring results to the public through its annual SDG 7: Accessible and Clean Energy reports. Previous SDG 7 reports can be accessed via the link below:

- [SDG 7 Report](#)



13.2.2 Low Carbon Energy Use

In 2024, IGU's energy usage data were as follows:

- Total energy consumption: 24.865.0 GJ
- Low-carbon energy consumption: 16.284.3 GJ
- Low-carbon energy ratio: 65.5%



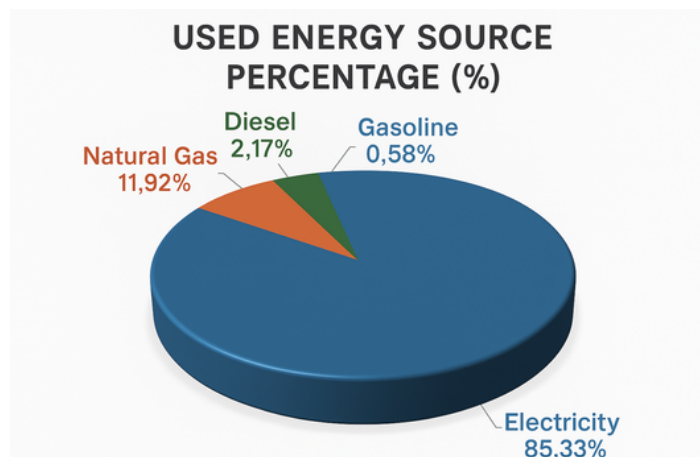
In the coming period, IGU aims to expand renewable energy investments, encourage low-carbon practices, and implement new projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to further increase energy efficiency. Table 2 shows energy consumption data for 2024.

Table 2 – Energy Usage Data

<i>Energy Source</i>	Consumption Amount	Unit	Percentage (%)	Carbon Emission (tons CO₂-e)
Electricity	4.523.414,21	kWh	8.533%	2.641,67
Natural Gas	207.392,00	m ³	1.192%	36.916
Diesel Fuel	25.112,00	litre	217%	6.730
Gasoline	7.692,00	litre	58%	1.785
Total	-	-	%100	3.095,97

These data show that more than two-thirds of the university's total energy consumption comes from low-carbon sources. This clearly demonstrates the impact of investments made in energy efficiency in line with sustainability goals.

Figure 1– Percentage of Energy Source Used



13.3 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MEASURES (2024)

In line with its sustainability vision, IGU organized numerous training programs, seminars, workshops, and social responsibility events throughout 2024 to mitigate the impacts of climate change, raise environmental awareness, and promote the adoption of low-carbon lifestyles. These events were planned and implemented to include not only university students but also academic staff, administrative staff, local governments, civil society organizations, and broader public segments. Thus, IGU aimed to raise public awareness of climate action and contribute to the fight against climate change at the local level.

Table 3 – Environmental Education and Awareness Activities

Event Name	Date	Location	Stakeholder	Evidence Link
My Health, My Rights	22.04.2024	IGU	Faculty of Health Sciences, NGO Collaboration	[Link]
Erasmus+ Orientation Meeting	29.04.2024	IGU K Block Auditorium	International Office	[Link]
Light Up Your Future with the Sun	07.05.2024	IGU	NGO Collaboration	[Link]
Don't Throw Away, Notice It	14.05.2024	IGU	Environmental Engineering Department, NGO Collaboration	[Link]
Development Summit	15–16.05.2024	IGU E Block TUSİ Conference Hall	International Student Societies, NGO Collaboration	[Link]
CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel Istanbul Trip	17.05.2024	CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel	CVK Hotels & Resorts	[Link]
Applied Communication Festival 2 – Communication and Sustainability: Shed Light on the Future!	21–24.05.2024	IGU J Block Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall	Faculty of Communication, Media Organizations	[Link] , [Link]
Climate Change and Youth Solutions	22.05.2024	Barış Manço Cultural Center	International Student Societies	[Link]
International African Symposium	24–25.05.2024	IGU J Block Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall	International Guest Academics	[Link] , [Link]
Social Work and Urban Justice Debates Symposium-I	05.06.2024	IGU J Block Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall	Department of Social Services, Municipality Representatives	[Link] , [Link]
Climate Crisis and Economics	11.06.2024	Online	-	[Link] , [Link]
Istanbul Indoor Vertical Farming Practices	06.12.2024	Istanbul	Agricultural Cooperative	[Link]
Youth's Impact on the Environment: Local Solutions and Climate Actions	11.12.2024	IGU	NGOs and Student Societies	[Link] , [Link]
Stars of Food	05.12.2024	YTU Davutpaşa Campus	Yıldız Technical University, Food Technologies Community	[Link] , [Link]
2024-2025 Gelisim Art Gallery Exhibition Program	25.12.2024	IGU Art Gallery	Department of Corporate Communications	[Link]



13.3.1 Local Climate-Related Education Programs

In 2024, numerous training programs, seminars, and field events were held on climate change, sustainable energy, environmental awareness, and sustainable agriculture. Highlights include:



**BENİM SAĞLIĞIM BENİM HAKLARIM
VE KÜRESEL KRİZ**

MODERATOR
Doç. Dr. Fatih Fuat TUNCER

KONUŞMACI
Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Nurten ELKİN

KONUŞMACI
Sosyolog ve Sifir Atık Uzmanı Esmâ Nur DEDE

KONUŞMACI
Uzman Klinik Psikolog SümeYra BENDER

22 Nisan, 2024 Pazartesi 14:00 Mehmet Akif Ersoy Salonu

gelisim.edu.tr | @gelisimedu | @igugelisim



- [My Health, My Rights- \(22.04.2024, IGU\)](#) – The event addressed the impacts of environmental pollution, air quality, and chemical waste on human health, and participants were presented with scientific information on the role of environmental factors in disease development. Topics such as environmentally friendly lifestyles, access to healthy food, and the protection of individual rights were discussed in interactive sessions. Students, accompanied by experts, learned about the concept of environmental justice and understood how the right to a healthy life is directly linked to environmental policies. At the end of the program, students were asked to design a short awareness-raising campaign focused on the relationship between environment and health.



- [Light Your Future with the Sun \(07.05.2024, IGU\)](#) – This event addressed the role of renewable energy sources in combating climate change, and showcased projects demonstrating the widespread use of solar energy. Speakers with energy engineering expertise explained the impact of fossil fuel consumption on global carbon emissions using scientific data and detailed the contribution of solar panels to energy efficiency. During the event, students worked in groups on solar energy solutions that could be implemented on campus and analyzed the cost and benefit of sample photovoltaic systems. The program concluded with an awareness campaign focused on practices that will reduce individual energy consumption.





- [Don't Throw Away, Notice It \(14.05.2024, IGU\)](#) – This event, focusing on recycling and waste management, comprehensively addressed the environmental impacts of the proper separation of plastic, metal, glass, and organic waste generated in daily life. Participants learned about the long-term environmental pollution caused by non-recyclable waste and its contribution to climate change through case studies. In an interactive workshop, students closely observed the processes of zero-waste projects implemented on campus and developed their own recycling plans. The final section discussed how sustainable consumption habits and circular economy principles can be integrated into daily life.





- **Climate Crisis and Economics (11.06.2024, Online)** – The online seminar "Climate Crisis and Economics," organized by IGU, addressed the impacts of climate change on the global economy and the role of green economy policies in sustainable development. The event provided detailed data on the economic losses caused by the climate crisis, the cost increases in agriculture, energy, transportation, and industry, and the impact of climate disasters on global trade.

ULUSLARARASI TİCARET VE FİNANSMAN BÖLÜMÜ

DOÇ. DR. EBUR GÜL YILMAZ

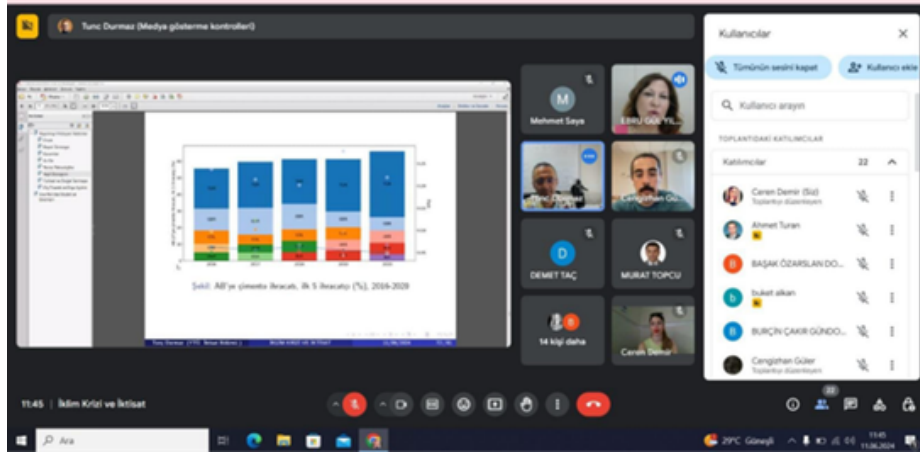
DOÇ. DR. TUNÇ DURMAZ

İKLİM KRİZİ VE İKTİSAT

TARİH VE SAAT: 11 HAZİRAN SALI - 11.00

Katılım Linki : <https://meet.google.com/jxf-xiyc-wvr>

Expert speakers emphasized the need for a transition to a low-carbon economy and explained how renewable energy investments, green financing instruments, and sustainable development strategies can be implemented in concert with economic growth. The seminar, held as part of SDG 13, addressed the long-term economic benefits of environmentally friendly policies and the paths to building climate-resilient economies. In a question-and-answer session at the end of the event, students and academics had the opportunity to discuss the societal and individual impacts of the green economy transformation.



- [Istanbul Indoor Vertical Farming Practices \(06.12.2024\)](#) – Organized by Istanbul Gelisim University, this field event aimed to raise students' awareness on sustainable urban farming techniques and food security. During the event, vertical farming methods applied in indoor environments were demonstrated, showing how high-efficiency production can be achieved with lower land, water, and energy consumption. Participants had the opportunity to observe modern agricultural technologies such as hydroponic and aeroponic systems and their role in combating climate change. The program also addressed threats to food security, the impact of urbanization on agriculture, and the importance of sustainable production models in reducing carbon footprints. Conducted within the framework of SDG 13 (Climate Action), the event presented innovative solutions and best practices to promote climate-friendly agricultural applications in cities. At the end of the event, students were made aware that environmentally sensitive farming methods hold strategic importance for the future of food security.





- [Erasmus+ Orientation Meeting \(29.04.2024, IGU K Block Auditorium\)](#) – At this event, held in partnership with the International Office, IBF students received comprehensive information about the Erasmus mobility process. Participants were provided with detailed information on application steps, required documents, school selection, course equivalence, and tuition fees. Additionally, practical advice was provided on administrative and academic processes students may encounter to ensure their Erasmus experience is more efficient. At the end of the event, students' knowledge of the Erasmus application process was enhanced and they were also provided with perspectives that will guide them to act as environmentally conscious, aware, and responsible individuals abroad.

ISTANBUL
GELİSİM
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

Toplantı

ULUSLARARASI OFİS VE
UYGULAMALI BİLİMLER FAKÜLTESİ DEKANLIĞI

**ERASMUS+ ORYANTASYON
TOPLANTISI**

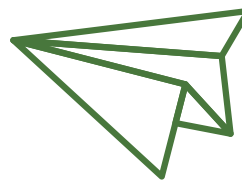
29 Nisan, 2024
Pazartesi

09:00 - 11:00

K Blok Firnas
Oditoryum

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IGU
SKS
Uygulamalı Bilimler
Fakültesi





- [Development Summit \(15–16.05.2024, IGU E Block TUSI Conference Hall\)](#) – At this two-day summit, students, academics, and civil society organizations from various countries came together to propose solutions to global environmental problems. Sessions examined the economic, social, and ecological dimensions of climate change in detail, and new strategies were developed to increase young people's contribution to sustainable development goals. Panels and workshops addressed topics such as environmentally friendly campus practices, green entrepreneurship, and carbon-neutral policies, encouraging participants to design sustainable projects. At the summit's conclusion, a joint declaration was prepared for environmentally friendly collaborations between universities.





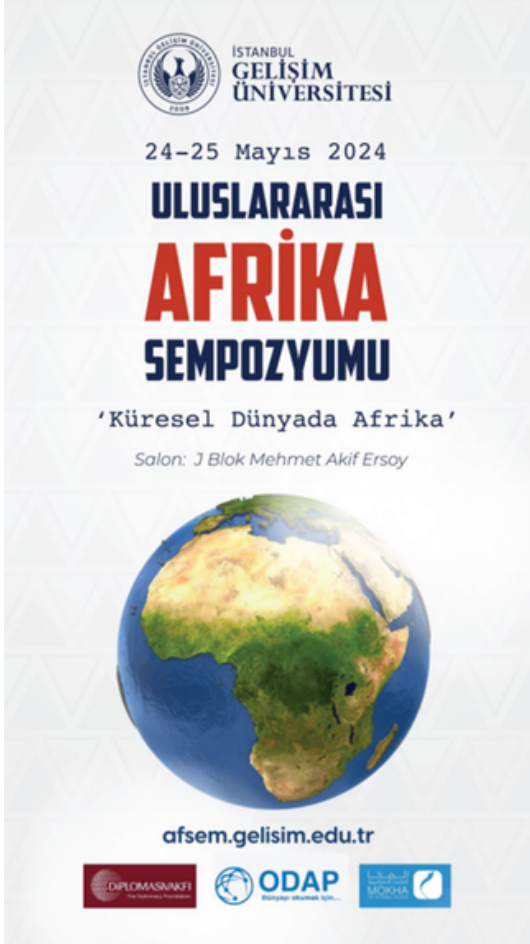
- [CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel Istanbul Trip \(17.05.2024\)](#) – This event was designed to provide students with a firsthand experience of how departments operate in the hotel industry. The various departments within the hotel were introduced, and managers shared their career paths and answered students' questions. The roles of departments such as human resources, finance, marketing, and purchasing, aligned with the hotel's mission and vision, were explained. Detailed information was also provided on recruitment policies, career development opportunities, marketing strategies, and purchasing processes. Following the meeting, students took a field trip, where they had the opportunity to closely examine interdepartmental communication models and the hotel's operational processes. This experience helped students internalize their theoretical knowledge by applying it to practice.





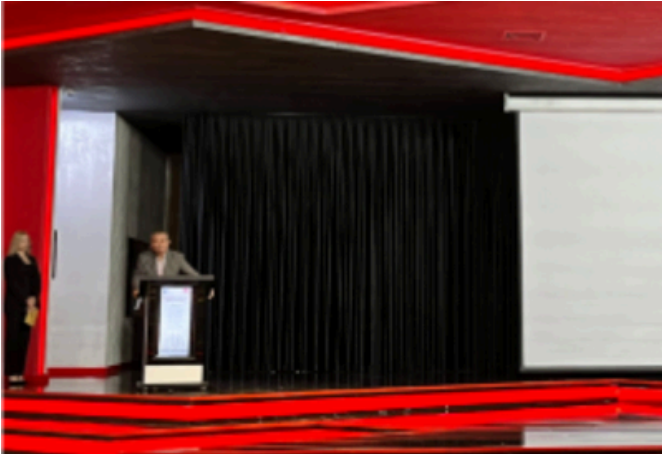
- [Applied Communication Festival-2 – Communication and Sustainability](#): Shed Light on the Future! (May 21–24, 2024) – This festival, organized for students studying media and communication, focused on creating media content with environmental sustainability themes. Throughout the event, hands-on workshops were held on campaigns supporting sustainable lifestyles, effective communication techniques for green media projects, and environmentally friendly visual media designs. Participants explored the power of communication strategies in combating climate change and created public service announcements and social media content to raise awareness. At the end of the festival, the student-designed projects were evaluated by a jury, and the most successful campaigns were selected for use within the university.





- [International African Symposium \(24–25.05.2024\)](#) – This symposium focused on climate change, access to clean energy, and environmental justice on the African continent. Over the course of two days, academics, civil society representatives, and students from various countries comprehensively discussed the impacts of the climate crisis in Africa and proposed solutions. The symposium sessions addressed the continent's renewable energy potential, drought mitigation strategies, and carbon-neutral development models. Participants gained a better understanding of the socio-economic impacts of environmental problems, learned from successful climate projects implemented on the continent, and laid the groundwork for new international collaborations. At the end of the event, a final communiqué was published, outlining potential collaborative projects to achieve sustainable development goals in Africa.





- [Social Work and Urban Justice Debates Symposium-I \(05.06.2024\)](#) – The symposium focused on urban transformation, social service policies, and the inequalities created by climate change in cities. Municipal representatives, academics, and students discussed models developed to ensure environmental justice in urban planning. The event focused on the vulnerability of low-income areas to climate change, air pollution, and access to green spaces. Participants learned about the role of social service policies in adapting to the climate crisis and developed recommendations for social justice-focused climate policies. At the end of the symposium, an action plan was developed in collaboration with local governments and the university to promote environmentally friendly and equitable policies in cities.





- [Stars of Food \(05.12.2024, YTU Davutpaşa Campus\)](#) – This event, organized on food technologies and sustainable agriculture, explored the impacts of climate change on food security. Experts detailed how the climate crisis impacts agricultural production efficiency, low-carbon food production methods, and sustainable agriculture techniques. Students observed environmentally friendly agricultural practices firsthand and learned about potential innovations in the food supply chain. Panel discussions highlighted the climate impacts of food waste and sustainable nutrition strategies. The event raised young people's awareness of agricultural technologies and presented innovative ideas for environmentally friendly food production systems.



- [2024-2025 Gelisim Art Gallery Exhibition Program \(25.12.2024\)](#) – This program, which showcased works on environmental awareness and climate change, highlighted the role of art in climate action. The exhibition featured artworks made from waste materials, photographic series on the climate crisis, and digital artworks highlighting sustainable living. Participants experienced the capacity of visual arts to amplify environmental messages and explored the relationship between art and ecology from different perspectives. Throughout the event, interviews with artists discussed the power of creative production in raising social awareness, inspiring university students to implement their own environmentally themed art projects.



- The [“Don't Throw Cigarette Butts Awareness Project”](#), conducted by IGU students in collaboration with the Avcilar Municipality Climate Change and Zero Waste Unit, aims to prevent environmental pollution and raise awareness of individual environmental responsibilities. Information campaigns, surveys, and poster displays on campus raised students' awareness of the environmental damage caused by cigarette butts. This initiative directly supports SDG 13 by promoting climate-friendly lifestyles.

- The [“Awareness Survey on the Carbon Footprint Reduction Effect of Solar Panel Use – Lighten the Future, Lighten Your Carbon Footprint”](#) project, conducted in collaboration with IGU and the Avcılar Municipality Climate Change and Zero Waste Unit, aimed to measure student awareness of carbon footprints and the use of renewable energy sources. Based on data obtained through online surveys, communication applications supporting environmental sustainability were developed and informational activities were conducted on campus. This activity directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets and stood out as a successful environmentally focused educational activity implemented in collaboration with the local government.
- The [International Sustainability Short Film Festival](#), hosted by IGU and organized in collaboration with the Public Relations and Promotion Directorate and the Faculty of Fine Arts, received 845 applications from 112 countries, offering young filmmakers the opportunity to express themselves globally within the framework of environmental sustainability. The talks and workshops held as part of the festival helped participants raise awareness of climate change, environmental issues, and sustainable living. This international event, which brought together various sectors of the university, made a cultural and educational contribution to the SDG 13 targets.



- The **“Seed Ball Making Workshop”**, organized with the participation of IGU students, took place on December 3, 2024. By using recyclable materials, the seed balls provided students with the opportunity to learn about local plant species and learn about simple yet effective methods for contributing to nature. The event supported SDG 13 targets by raising ecological awareness and promoting climate-friendly individual behaviors.



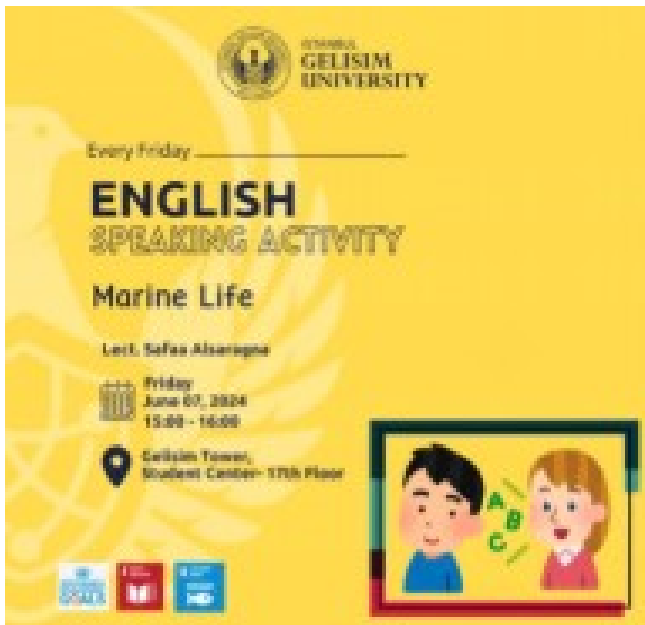
- The "Sustainable Cities" event, organized by IGU on December 6, 2024, highlighted the importance of climate-friendly practices in building sustainable cities. The event addressed topics such as increasing green spaces, energy efficiency, environmentally friendly transportation systems, and recycling practices. Participants learned about strategies to support climate action in urban planning and discussed new approaches to designing sustainable living spaces. This event directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets and helped raise environmental awareness.

- The **“Fashion and Artificial Intelligence”** event, organized by IGU on February 21, 2024, addressed energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and the use of artificial intelligence in energy production. Participants received comprehensive information on the role of sustainable energy solutions and environmentally friendly technologies in climate action. The event raised awareness of how innovative technologies can be used to combat climate change and directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets.



- The **“Don't Throw It Away”** Workshop, organized by IGU on April 30, 2024, aimed to raise environmental awareness by designing creative and educational games using recycled materials. Students and children participating in the workshop gained hands-on experience with the reuse of waste materials and developed awareness about developing sustainable living habits. This event directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets and supported the promotion of recycling-based environmental awareness.

- The [“If There Are Bees, There Is a Future”](#) event, organized by IGU on May 29, 2024, highlighted the critical role of bees in biodiversity and food security. Participants learned about the contributions of bees to ecosystem balance and agricultural production, and raised awareness of sustainable agricultural practices, the protection of natural habitats, and the importance of biodiversity in combating climate change. The event directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets and fostered environmental awareness.



- The [“Marine Life”](#) event, organized by IGU on June 7, 2024, focused on the protection of marine life and the impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems. Participants were informed about the links between marine pollution, overfishing, the functioning of marine ecosystems, and climate change. Environmental awareness was also raised through discussions on sustainable seafood consumption and biodiversity conservation strategies. The event directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets, fostering awareness of the protection of marine ecosystems.



Thanks to these activities, awareness of climate change has been increased among students, academics and local stakeholders, and new behavioral models have been developed to reduce individual carbon footprints.

13.3.2 Climate Action Plan and Sharing with Stakeholders

As part of its sustainability policies, IGU prepared climate action plans in 2024 and shared them with stakeholders. These plans include concrete goals for increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, promoting environmentally friendly transportation, and increasing green spaces on campus.

The prepared climate action plan was communicated to university units and local governments through official correspondence and shared through meetings and workshops. Thus, IGU has taken steps to embrace climate action goals not only as an internal policy but also within the framework of a shared vision with local stakeholders.

IGU has adopted the goal of developing a climate action plan in line with "Goal 3: Increasing the effectiveness of the sustainable environmental management system" and "Strategic Goal 2: Increasing the effectiveness of the sustainable environmental management system" (p. 57) in the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. This goal aims to ensure a systematic planning of activities to be carried out in areas such as increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and environmentally friendly transportation. You can access the plan [here](#).

13.3.3 Joint Planning for Disaster and Climate Risks

Considering the increasing risks of natural disasters (floods, heat waves, air pollution, etc.) due to climate change, the university's infrastructure and operational processes were analyzed and risk reduction measures were planned.



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In 2024, through meetings held between university units and relevant public institutions:

- Emergency action plans on campus have been updated,
- Indoor climate control measures have been identified against extreme heat waves,
- Drainage and infrastructure control plans have been prepared against the risks of heavy rainfall and flooding.
- These efforts have aimed to minimize the impacts of potential climate change–induced disasters and to enhance the resilience of the university.



T.C.
İSTANBUL GELİŞİM ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ



Sayı : E-53330280-050.04-127757
Konu : Afet ve Acil Durum Koordinatörlüğünün Kurulması

13.06.2024

DAĞITIM YERLERİNE

07.06.2024 tarih 2024/12 sayılı Üniversite Yönetim Kurulu Toplantısında, Rektör Yardımcılığına bağlı olarak Afet ve Acil Durum Koordinatörlüğü kurulmasına ilişkin alınan karar ekte sunulmuştur.
Gereğini bilgilerinize rica ederim.

Prof. Dr. Bahri ŞAHİN
Rektör

13.3.4 Informing and Supporting the Government

[The Cyber Academy Training Program](#), carried out free of charge in collaboration with Istanbul Gelisim University, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Istanbul Development Agency, and the Ministry of Industry and Technology of Türkiye, aimed to provide both basic and advanced knowledge in the field of digital security. This program raised awareness about protecting critical digital systems—such as energy infrastructures, environmental databases, and climate action–related platforms—against cyber threats. It contributed to the establishment of secure digital infrastructures that support public institutions' environmental and climate policies. In this respect, it served as a capacity-building activity that indirectly contributed to SDG 13 targets by enhancing the security of sustainable systems related to climate action.



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The Director of the IGU Sustainable Environment and Society Application and Research Center spoke at the sessions held at the Turkish pavilion during the COP29 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11–22, 2024. This international event, themed "Energy and Climate Change," aimed to contribute to global climate action goals through collaborations with civil society, the private sector, and academia. The IGU representation strengthened the university's academic contribution to international climate change policies.



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The talk, titled "The Hydrogen Age and Sustainable Development," organized by the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at IGU, took place on March 7, 2024, at the Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall. Speakers included a faculty member from the Ontario University of Technology, a member of the TÜBA Energy Working Group, a member of the TENMAK Executive Board, and the President of the Hydrogen Technologies Association. The event addressed the role of hydrogen technologies in sustainable development, their role in the energy transition, and their potential contributions to climate action. Strengthening academic and public collaboration, the event emphasized the importance of transitioning to clean energy solutions in line with SDG 13 targets.

13.3.5 Climate Adaptation Education Collaboration with NGOs

Collaborations have been established with civil society organizations and local governments to promote environmentally friendly practices. Some of the activities highlighted for 2024 include:



- **Climate Change and Youth Solutions (22.05.2024, Barış Manço Cultural Center)** – This international panel discussed young people's innovative solutions to the climate crisis. Student representatives from various countries shared environmental issues and implemented climate action projects in their respective regions. The panel brainstormed technology-based solutions to the climate crisis, green entrepreneurship ideas, and community-based environmental projects. By learning about best practices from different countries, participants grasped the importance of global collaboration and agreed on common solutions. At the end of the event, the young leaders formed an international network to implement projects that contribute to the sustainable development goals.





- **The Impact of Youth on the Environment: Local Solutions and Climate Actions (11.12.2024, IGU)** – This event provided an opportunity for young people to share their solutions to climate change developed at the local level. Students and representatives of civil society organizations presented environmental projects implemented on campus and city levels, presenting innovative approaches to topics such as waste management, energy efficiency, and increasing green spaces. Through workshops, participants learned how to initiate community-based initiatives for climate action and how to scale them up in line with sustainable development goals. At the end of the event, new project ideas that could be implemented by university students were identified, and proposals for collaboration with local governments were developed.

IGU supported young leaders in raising their awareness of environmental responsibility and sustainability through the European Union-supported [“Youth Organizational Leadership \(YOL\)”](#) project. The project created a strong collaborative platform between the university and civil society organizations, raising young people's awareness of climate change, clean energy, and social responsibility. At the meeting, attended by IGU Rector Prof. Dr. Bahri ŞAHİN, the importance of young people taking an active role for a sustainable future was emphasized. This activity contributed to SDG 13, increasing the competencies of young leaders in combating climate challenges.





With these collaborations, the university's impact capacity in the field of environmental sustainability has been strengthened, and good practices in the field of climate adaptation have been developed by carrying out joint projects with local stakeholders.

13.3.6 Disaster and Emergency Club Activities

The "[Disaster and Emergency Club](#)", operating within IGU, organized numerous events throughout 2024 to raise disaster awareness and prepare students and staff for disasters. With 186 active members, the club organized awareness-raising training and drills, particularly regarding earthquake, fire, flood, and other natural disaster risks.

The main activities carried out throughout the year were as follows:

- Disaster Awareness Training: Seminars were held on proper behavior during earthquakes and fires, preparing an emergency kit, and first aid.
- Search and Rescue Drills: Students and volunteer teams developed their emergency response skills through practical exercises conducted in collaboration with the Fire Department and AFAD.
- Field Studies: Volunteer support teams were deployed to areas affected by disasters such as floods and fires.
- Stakeholder Collaborations: Joint events were held with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions, and post-disaster response plans were discussed.

The Disaster and Emergency Club has strengthened the campus's disaster preparedness capacity by raising awareness of the university community against extreme weather events caused by climate change within the scope of SDG 13.



T.C.
İSTANBUL GELİŞİM ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ

YÖNETİM KURULU KARAR ÖRNEĞİ

Toplantı No	Toplantı Tarihi	Toplantı Saati	Toplantı Yeri
2024/12	07.06.2024	11:00	Senato Salonu

KARAR NO: 2024-12-06
2547 Sayılı Yükseköğretim Kanunu'nun 51. maddesinin a. bendine göre Üniversitemiz Rektör Yardımcılığına bağlı olarak Afet ve Acil Durum Koordinatörlüğü kurulmasına oy birliği ile karar verilmiştir.

ASLI GİBİDİR



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13.4 CARBON NEUTRAL UNIVERSITY COMMITMENT (2024)

IGU has adopted achieving carbon neutrality as a long-term institutional goal as a cornerstone of its sustainability vision. The university has made reducing its environmental impact a strategic priority not only through its education and research activities but also through its own operational processes. Given the critical importance of global efforts to combat climate change, IGU's approach to this issue is based on an environmental management system aligned with international standards.

Throughout 2024, efforts focused on regularly calculating greenhouse gas emissions from the university's activities, detailedly monitoring energy consumption, and identifying areas for improvement. The carbon neutrality goal is not limited to short-term reduction projects; it encompasses the long-term vision of creating a sustainable and low-carbon campus.

13.4.1 Commitment to Carbon Neutrality

IGU comprehensively calculated its 2024 greenhouse gas emissions and analyzed their sources in detail. The total carbon footprint was determined to be **3.095,97 tons CO₂-e**, demonstrating the environmental impact of the university's energy use habits. The emissions distribution is as follows:

The high share of electricity consumption reflects the energy intensity of devices used in university buildings and laboratories. Natural gas consumption is primarily driven by heating systems, while diesel and gasoline consumption comes from on-campus transportation and generator use.

Based on these results, IGU supports its carbon neutrality target with a holistic approach encompassing energy efficiency projects, renewable energy investments, low-emission alternatives in transportation, and carbon offsetting practices.



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13.4.2 Carbon Neutral Roadmap and Studies

The roadmap developed by IGU to achieve carbon neutrality includes short-, medium-, and long-term goals. The work conducted in 2024 laid the groundwork for future steps:

1. Energy Efficiency and Saving Measures



- The transition to energy-efficient LED lighting systems has been accelerated throughout the campus.
- Automatic sensor-based control mechanisms have been introduced for heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
- Laboratories and offices have shifted to energy-efficient equipment.
- Energy-saving training has been provided for students and staff.

2. Renewable Energy Investments



- Technical and financial feasibility reports have been prepared for the installation of solar panels in 2024.
- Project development has begun for rooftop solar energy systems and small-scale wind energy solutions.
- In the long term, the goal is to provide a significant portion of the campus's electricity needs from renewable sources.

3. Carbon Reduction in Transportation



- Negotiations have been conducted with suppliers to replace campus shuttles with electric vehicles.
- Infrastructure improvements have been planned to increase bicycle use.
- Campaigns have been launched to encourage car sharing and public transportation.

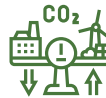


4. Carbon Footprint Monitoring and Reporting



- Data collection infrastructure for annual greenhouse gas emissions reporting has been strengthened.
- Emissions from sources such as energy consumption, transportation, and waste management have been regularly measured and integrated into the reporting system.

5. Compensation and Carbon Offset Programs



- Collaborations have been developed with local municipalities and civil society organizations for afforestation projects.
- Feasibility studies have been conducted on carbon offset certificates and participation in voluntary carbon markets.

IGU's roadmap to carbon neutrality aims not only to reduce the environmental impact of university operations but also to foster a climate-friendly culture among students, faculty, and stakeholders. The university plans to achieve its carbon-neutral campus vision through renewable energy projects, energy-saving practices, and carbon offsetting activities to be implemented in 2024 and beyond.

In addition, IGU presents the data and developments obtained within the scope of these studies to the public through the [SDG 7: Accessible and Clean Energy](#) reports it publishes every year.

13.5 ROADMAP FOR 2024 AND BEYOND

IGU has developed a strategic roadmap to further strengthen its climate action efforts, drawing on data collected, projects implemented, and analyses conducted through 2024. This roadmap includes long-term plans aimed at achieving carbon neutrality, spreading a culture of sustainability across all stakeholders, and increasing national and international collaborations.



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According to the results of the [“UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2024”](#) Istanbul Gelisim University has achieved significant success in its efforts towards environmental sustainability. First included in the rankings in 2022, our university achieved a 435-point increase in 2024, achieving a total score of 6070, ranking 677th globally, 70th in Turkey, and 15th among foundation universities. This result demonstrates the effective implementation of IGU's holistic policies in areas such as environmental responsibility, campus sustainability, waste management, and energy efficiency. With this success, our university directly contributes to SDG 13 and achieves a strong international standing in sustainable campus practices.



13.5.1 Targets

The main objectives of IGU in the field of climate action for 2024 and beyond, as stated in the [“strategic plan”](#) are:

1. Carbon Neutrality Target: To gradually reduce carbon emissions by 2030 and become a carbon-neutral campus by 2040. In this context, the target is to reduce electrical energy consumption from **3.901,005 kWh** in 2023 to **3.500,000 kWh** in 2028.



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2. Renewable Energy Use: At least 50% of electricity consumption will come from renewable sources; renewable energy capacity is planned to be increased from **3.915,000 kWh** in 2023 to **4.000,000 kWh** in 2028.

3. Sustainable Transportation: Switching to electric shuttles, expanding bicycle paths, and implementing low-emission transportation practices on campus.

4. Waste Management and Circular Economy: While the total amount of waste is expected to reach **42.300 kg** in 2028 from **43.031 kg** in 2023, the amount of recycled waste is aimed to increase from **21.423 kg** in 2023 to **23.500 kg** in 2028.

5. Increasing Green Areas: In line with the strategic plan, it is aimed to increase the green area ratio from **26%** in 2023 to **27%** in 2028.

6. Academic Contribution and Scientific Collaborations: The university aims to rise from **58th** place in Turkey to **40th** place in the Green, Environmentally Friendly University Index ranking in 2028, and from **674th** place to **500th** place in the world ranking.

13.5.2 Planned Work

The main actions to be implemented in 2024 and beyond to achieve the targets are planned as follows:

- **Energy Management and Renewable Resources:**

- Launching a pilot project for solar panel installation on campus rooftops.
- Accelerating the transition to high-energy-efficiency appliances.
- Real-time tracking of energy consumption data through digital monitoring systems.

- **Carbon Reduction and Offset Projects:**

- Implementing afforestation projects in collaboration with local municipalities and civil society organizations.
- Exploring carbon credit applications and participating in international offset mechanisms.
- Developing wastewater recycling and rainwater harvesting practices.



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- **Sustainable Transportation Solutions:**

- Installation of electric vehicle charging stations.
- Integration of car-sharing systems and public transportation.
- Pedestrian-friendly campus planning.
- Academic and Social Engagement:
 - Providing sustainability-themed awards, competitions, and research funding for students and faculty.
 - Representing the university on international climate action platforms.
 - Increasing environmental awareness training for local communities.

- **Monitoring, Reporting and Transparency:**

- Regular annual carbon footprint reporting and sharing SDG 13 performance indicators.
- Creating a digital sustainability dashboard that tracks progress on climate action targets.
- In addition to these efforts, IGU publishes annual Sustainability Reports, sharing its environmental, social, and governance performance with the public. All open-access reports are available on the IGU Sustainability Website.

This roadmap aims to position IGU among leading universities in combating climate change, accelerate the process toward carbon neutrality, and foster a sustainable lifestyle for students, employees, and all stakeholders.

13.6 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES

IGU has placed sustainable development goals at the heart of its institutional strategies and developed official policies that support environmentally friendly practices. These policies aim to ensure the university implements environmentally responsible operational processes, reduces carbon emissions, and ensures the efficient use of natural resources. These environmental policies, which were implemented and updated in 2024, form the fundamental framework for all activities under SDG 13.



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13.6.1 [Environmental Policy](#)

IGU considers environmental protection a fundamental institutional responsibility. In this context, the following policies have been adopted:

- Preventing environmental pollution on campus,
- Effective and efficient use of energy and water resources,
- Focusing on environmentally friendly technologies,
- Protecting natural habitats and increasing green spaces.

13.6.2 [Carbon Emission and Nature Protection Policy](#)

One of the most critical goals in combating climate change is reducing carbon emissions. This policy aims to:

- Reduce fossil fuel use,
- Implement energy efficiency projects to reduce emissions from electricity consumption,
- Encourage renewable energy investments, and
- Support carbon offsetting and afforestation projects.

13.6.3 [Renovation and Sustainable Resource Use Policy](#)

In the maintenance, repair, and renovation of campus buildings, the following are implemented:

- Environmentally friendly building materials are preferred,
- Energy-efficient systems are integrated, and
- Waste recycling and reuse are ensured.

13.6.4 [Water Management Policy](#)

To ensure the sustainability of water resources:

- Technologies that reduce water consumption (automatic sensor faucets, low-flow systems) are implemented.
- Wastewater recycling and reuse projects are developed.
- Rainwater harvesting practices are expanded.



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Table 5 – Application Areas of Environmental Policies

<i>Policy Name</i>	Scope	Evidence Link
<i>Environment Policy</i>	Preventing environmental pollution, efficient use of energy and water resources, protecting natural habitats	Official Document
<i>Carbon Emission and Nature Protection Policy</i>	Reducing fossil fuel use, renewable energy investments, carbon offset projects	Official Document
<i>Renovation and Sustainable Resource Use Policy</i>	Using environmentally friendly materials, energy-efficient systems, recycling practices	Official Document
<i>Water Management Policy</i>	Water-saving technologies, wastewater recycling, rainwater harvesting practices	Official Document

13.7 SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED RESEARCH CENTERS

IGU has established various application and research centers to increase scientific knowledge production for sustainable development goals and develop solution-oriented approaches to environmental problems. These centers support interdisciplinary collaborations and carry out projects on climate change, environmental management, sustainable urbanism, and public awareness. Through 2024, the activities of these centers have directly contributed to the SDG 13 targets.

13.7.1 Sustainable Environment and Society Application and Research Center

This center offers projects and consulting services aimed at preventing environmental degradation.

- Scientific research has been conducted on environmental pollution, waste management, and renewable energy.
- Various training and seminars have been organized for students and academics, and public awareness initiatives have been supported.
- Academic contributions to environmental protection policies have been made through collaborations with public institutions and local governments.



13.7.2 [Environment, Urbanization and Earth Sciences Application and Research Center](#)

The Center conducts research on sustainable urban planning and environmental management.

- Projects have been developed to reduce carbon emissions in urban areas.
- The impacts of climate change on urbanization have been researched, and reports on sustainable transportation solutions have been prepared.
- Research outcomes have been shared at national and international conferences.

13.7.3 [Social Responsibility Application and Research Center](#)

This center, which develops social responsibility projects on climate change and environmental sustainability, has:

- Increased the participation of university students in public environmental awareness initiatives.
- Social initiatives focused on climate action have been supported through projects carried out in partnership with local civil society organizations.
- Young people have been provided opportunities to volunteer in environmental protection.

Thanks to these research centers, IGU has established a strong position in academic activities focused on the environment and climate, and has implemented projects that contribute to climate action at national and international levels through interdisciplinary collaborations.

Table 6 – Research Centers and 2024 Activities

Research Center Name	Purpose/Field of Activity	Evidence Link
<i>Sustainable Environment and Society Application and Research Center</i>	Environmental pollution, waste management, renewable energy research and consulting	[Regulation PDF Link]
<i>Environment, Urbanization, and Earth Sciences Application and Research Center</i>	Sustainable urban planning, carbon emission reduction projects, transportation reports	[Regulation PDF Link]
<i>Social Responsibility Application and Research Center</i>	Climate awareness campaigns, social initiatives, NGO collaborations	[Regulation PDF Link]





13.8 CLIMATE ACTION TARGETS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2024–2028)

As part of its 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, IGU has established strategic objectives focused on sustainability and climate action. These objectives aim to strengthen environmental sustainability, reduce carbon emissions, and increase institutional capacity to combat climate change across the university's academic, administrative, and community contribution activities.

13.8.1 Strategic Objectives

"Increasing social benefit by focusing on sustainability" has been determined as the primary objective within Strategic Plan SA3. In this context, the strategic sub-goals related to climate action are as follows:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Use: Improving university-wide energy management systems, increasing the use of low-carbon energy sources, and investing in renewable energy.
- Carbon Footprint Reduction: Annually measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from university operations and implementing carbon offset projects.
- Sustainable Transportation and Waste Management: Expanding environmentally friendly transportation options on campus, increasing recycling rates, and implementing zero-waste practices.
- Disaster and Climate Risk Management: Strengthening preparedness plans for disaster risks caused by climate change and increasing campus resilience.
- Public Awareness and Education: Increasing educational programs for students, staff, and the community on climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable living.



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13.8.2 Planned Activities

The main activities planned under SDG 13 during the strategic plan period are as follows:

- Strengthening the energy monitoring infrastructure with digital systems and aiming to reduce energy consumption by 15% through efficiency projects.
- Installing solar panels on campus rooftops and increasing renewable energy capacity.
- Preparing annual carbon footprint reports on a regular basis and sharing them with the public.
- Implementing sustainable transportation solutions (bicycle paths, electric shuttle vehicles, car-sharing programs).
- Developing a waste management plan and increasing the recycling rate to 80%.
- Institutionalizing disaster risk management drills and strengthening collaboration with the Disaster and Emergency Club.
- Increasing the number of joint projects on climate action at the national and international levels, and producing new scientific outputs through research centers.

These strategic objectives will enable IGU to achieve more systematic and measurable progress in climate action in the coming years, realize a sustainable campus vision, and make a strong contribution to the goals of SDG 13.



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THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

