



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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Message from the Rector

The environmental, economic, and social challenges facing the world -and Türkiye in particular- place a profound responsibility on higher education institutions to lead the transition toward a sustainable future. At Sakarya University, we embrace this responsibility with a strong institutional commitment, integrating sustainability principles into our education, research, governance, and community engagement practices.

We continue to advance our sustainability agenda through comprehensive initiatives focusing on energy efficiency, carbon management, water conservation, zero waste practices, and biodiversity protection across our campuses. These efforts not only aim to reduce our environmental footprint but also to cultivate a culture of sustainability by equipping our students, staff, and stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary to contribute to a more sustainable society.

This report reflects our ongoing progress and strategic direction within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It demonstrates our commitment to embedding sustainability into all aspects of university life through a transparent, accountable, and continuously improving approach.

Looking ahead, Sakarya University will continue to strengthen collaboration with its stakeholders to develop innovative and inclusive solutions to global sustainability challenges. Through interdisciplinary research, quality education, and active community engagement, we aim to enhance our contribution to sustainable development at local, national, and global levels.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our academic and administrative staff, students, and partners for their dedication and valuable contributions. Together, we will continue to move forward toward a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Hamza AL

Rector

Sakarya University

INTRODUCTION

The origins of **Sakarya University** date back to the Sakarya Engineering and Architecture Academy, established in 1970 and restructured in 1971 as the Sakarya State Academy of Architecture and Engineering. Between 1982 and 1992, the institution operated as a faculty affiliated with Istanbul Technical University before gaining its official status as Sakarya University on July 3, 1992, under Law No. 3837. Since its establishment, the University has pursued a continuous development trajectory grounded in quality, innovation, and societal contribution.

Sakarya University is recognized as a **pioneer in quality management** within higher education in Türkiye. Holding the TS EN ISO 9001 Quality Management System Certificate, it became the first university in the country to receive the **National Quality Award within the EFQM Model framework**. This institutional commitment has been reinforced by international recognitions, including the European Excellence Award (2015) and the European Global Excellence Award (2018). Through sustained investments in laboratory infrastructure, digital transformation, applied education models, and information technologies, the University has established a comprehensive and scalable institutional model.

As of 2025, Sakarya University operates across five campuses, with 14 faculties, 6 institutes, 3 vocational schools, and 1 State Conservatory, serving approximately 50,000 students and supported by over 2,000 academic and administrative staff. Building on its strong academic foundation, the University **achieved the official “Research University” status in 2025**, following a comprehensive evaluation process conducted by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). As a result of its performance across multiple research indicators, Sakarya University ranked **12th among state universities in Türkiye** and was positioned at the **A2 level**, reflecting its strong performance in research capacity, quality, and collaboration.

This milestone represents a significant institutional transformation, enabling the University to further strengthen its academic staff capacity, expand laboratory infrastructure, and increase access to research funding and scholarships at both undergraduate and graduate levels. In parallel, the University has enhanced its research ecosystem through structured support mechanisms, particularly those supporting TÜBİTAK project development, alongside increasing participation in **TÜBİTAK-funded projects, COST Actions, and European Union-supported initiatives such as PRIMA**, contributing to the quality, international collaboration, and impact of research outputs.

Sakarya University has demonstrated **consistent and measurable progress in global sustainability performance**, positioning itself among leading universities both nationally and internationally. In the QS Sustainability Rankings, the University ranked **1st among public universities in Türkiye in Environmental Sustainability for two consecutive years (2024–2025)** and reached 201st globally in 2025. In the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025, the University improved its performance in 16 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), achieving **65th** place globally in Life Below Water (SDG 14) and **83rd** in Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), while maintaining its overall position within the 401-600 band despite a significant increase in global participation.

In addition, Sakarya University ranked 12th in Türkiye and **157th globally** in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2025. According to the 2025 YÖK University Monitoring and Evaluation Report, the University ranked among the top institutions in Türkiye across all sustainability-related indicators and maintained a **top-20 position across all evaluated sustainability dimensions**.

This performance reflects an **integrated sustainability approach** that combines environmental responsibility, social impact, and research excellence. Campus-wide zero waste certification, renewable energy investments, circular economy practices such as deposit return systems, sustainable mobility initiatives, and **student- and community-based awareness and science communication programs** collectively contribute to measurable environmental and social outcomes. At the same time, the University's research-driven ecosystem ensures that sustainability is embedded not only in operations but also in education, innovation, and community engagement.

Sakarya University remains committed to advancing its role as a **research university** that generates high-impact knowledge and delivers measurable contributions to global sustainability challenges. By aligning its strategic priorities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University continues to strengthen its position as an institution that integrates education, research, and societal impact within a comprehensive and data-driven sustainability framework.



45 K
STUDENTS



STAFF
2.7 K
STAFF



254 K
ALUMNI

SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS

SAKARYA UNIVERSITY RANKS **1ST** AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN TÜRKİYE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN QS SUSTAINABILITY 2026, **12TH** IN TÜRKİYE IN UI GREENMETRIC 2025, AND AMONG THE **TOP 20** UNIVERSITIES IN TÜRKİYE IN THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2025.



100%
FREE, PURE DRINKING
WATER FOR ALL



PURCHASED
100%
RENEWABLE
ELECTRICITY
VERIFIED BY I-REC
CERTIFICATION



100%
ZERO WASTE
OF OUR WASTE
STAYS OUT OF
LANDFILLS



Our Sustainable University Policy aims to adopt conscious consumption of resources, waste management, energy efficiency, gender equality, inclusivity, and respect for human rights, based on the Sustainable Development Goals and considering their ecological, economic, and social dimensions.



Our Social Contribution Policy aims to manage social contribution activities, maintain transparent governance towards stakeholders, foster responsible individuals, and support sustainable communities by embracing human rights and occupational health principles.

Sakarya University Sustainability Overview

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2025: SAKARYA UNIVERSITY

Sustainable Development Goals World Rankings



65.



83.

101-200



201-300



301-400



Anastirma Üniversitesi



THE Impact Rankings 2025

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2025: SAKARYA UNIVERSITY

Sustainable Development Goals
Rankings in Türkiye



SDG 17
Partnerships
for the Goals

1-3rd



SDG 14
Life Below Water

2-3rd



SDG 7
Affordable and
Clean Energy

3rd



SDG 1
No Poverty

SDG 11
Sustainable Cities
and Communities

4-6th



SDG 2
Zero Hunger

4-8th



SDG 15
Life on Land

5-8th



*Arastirma
Universitesi*



THE Impact Rankings 2025

SAU QS SUSTAINABILITY 2026 RESULTS

RANKED
AMONG 1994 UNIVERSITIES

715 th

RANKED
AMONG 53 UNIVERSITIES
IN TÜRKİYE

13 th

Environmental Sustainability | Environmental Sustainability | In the Performance Metrics



RANKED
WORLDWIDE

201 st

RANKED
IN TÜRKİYE

1 st

AMONG PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES
IN TÜRKİYE



IN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

RANKED
WORLDWIDE

396 th

UI GreenMetric 2025 World University Rankings **Announced!**



Ranked
12th

in Türkiye



Ranked
157th

Worldwide

Sakarya University continues to advance its green campus goals with its improved environmental sustainability performance in the UI GreenMetric 2025 rankings. The University ranked **12th** in Türkiye and **157th** worldwide.



SAKARYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ

Toplumsal Katkı ve Sürdürülebilirlik Koordinatörlüğü



tokas.sakarya.edu.tr

UI Greenmetric 2025 Results

ABOUT THE SAKARYA UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The role of higher education in the global sustainability transformation is critically important. The Sakarya University Sustainability Report has been prepared to systematically evaluate and continuously improve the University's sustainability performance, addressing its environmental, social, and economic impacts through an integrated approach. The primary objective of the report is to measure performance, identify areas for improvement, and provide transparent, data-driven information to stakeholders.

The 2025 Sustainability Report builds upon the methodology established in previous reporting periods and is aligned with international standards and best practices. The reporting framework integrates **UI GreenMetric**, **GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Standards**, and **THE (Times Higher Education) Impact Rankings**, enabling a comprehensive assessment of the University's performance in relation to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. This multi-dimensional approach ensures comparability, transparency, and alignment with global sustainability benchmarks.

Prepared by the Social Contribution and Sustainability Coordination Office using **2025 data**, the report incorporates verified information and analyses obtained through the coordinated contributions of relevant academic and administrative units. Sustainability indicators are structured across environmental, social, and economic dimensions, and a systematic data collection and validation process has been implemented with the active participation of all units.

The report presents in detail the progress achieved by Sakarya University toward its sustainability objectives in 2025, while also outlining its strategic priorities, performance targets, and continuous improvement approach for the upcoming period.

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MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

A. Mission

The mission of Sakarya University is

“to nurture entrepreneurial individuals with lifelong learning skills who contribute to humanity and produce universal knowledge, technology, and social services”.

B. Vision

The vision of Sakarya University is

“to be a university that guides the future alongside its stakeholders by producing universal knowledge and technology”.

C. Core Values

The core values of Sakarya University are,

- Universality of Science
- Academic Freedom
- Governance
- Continuous Development
- Sustainability
- Institutional Transparency
- Collaboration with Stakeholders

Strategic Goals and Objectives

Sakarya University, in its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, has outlined five strategic goals, with the third goal specifically focused on social contribution and sustainability targets. In alignment with this strategic goal, each academic and relevant administrative unit has set its five-year objectives. With a strategic management approach, the university regularly monitors and evaluates its implementations.

The strategic goal and objectives determined by Sakarya University in the context of sustainability and social contribution are as follows:

Strategic Goal 3: To enhance the contributions of students and employees to sustainable development and strengthen social innovation with a consciousness of social, ethical, and environmental responsibility.

Objective 3.3 - To expand green campus practices that reduce the campus's ecological footprint, increase energy efficiency, and align with smart technologies.



Sakarya University Esentepe Campus Layout Plan



1. QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

Sakarya University adheres to internationally recognized accreditation and quality management systems to continuously enhance the quality of its academic programs and institutional processes. The University was the first in Türkiye to receive the **ISO 9001 Quality Management System Certificate** and also holds the **TS ISO 10002 Customer Satisfaction Management System Certificate**, demonstrating its commitment to structured and stakeholder-oriented quality management.

Within the framework of the **EFQM Model**, Sakarya University became the first university in Türkiye to receive both the **Excellence Award** and the **Continuity in Excellence Award**, and has further strengthened its institutional quality culture through international recognitions such as the **EFQM Global Excellence Award**, the **European Commission ECTS and Diploma Supplement (DS) Label**, and the **National Quality Award**. These achievements reflect the University's long-standing commitment to excellence, transparency, and continuous improvement.

Quality management is systematically implemented across all academic and administrative units and is supported by **continuous improvement cycles**. The University maintains active collaboration with national and international accreditation bodies to ensure the quality and relevance of its academic programs. Curricula are regularly updated in line with sectoral needs, global trends, and stakeholder expectations, while improvements are continuously informed by structured **student feedback mechanisms**.

The quality assurance system is reinforced through **internal audit processes and external evaluation mechanisms**. Tools such as student and staff satisfaction surveys, academic performance evaluations, and institutional monitoring systems are regularly applied, and **data-driven action plans** are developed based on the results to ensure measurable improvements.

Through its comprehensive approach to accreditation and quality management, Sakarya University ensures alignment with international standards while supporting excellence in both **education and research activities**. The accreditation processes and quality management practices implemented across the University are presented in detail in the following sections.

1.1. Quality Management

Quality management plays a fundamental role in all academic and administrative processes of our university. Our quality management system aims to enhance student satisfaction and academic success through a continuous improvement approach. Our quality management practices are examined under the following headings:

- **ISO 9001 Quality Management System:** Our university holds the ISO 9001 Quality Management System certificate. This system ensures the effective management and continuous improvement of educational and administrative processes. All our faculties and administrative units operate in compliance with this standard and are regularly audited.
- **Strategic Planning and Performance Management:** Our university implements performance management in line with the established strategic goals. Performance indicators determined through annual evaluations are monitored and reported. This process plays a crucial role in achieving the university's goals.
- **Student and Staff Satisfaction:** Student and staff satisfaction is at the core of our quality management system. Accordingly, satisfaction surveys are conducted regularly, and

improvement efforts are planned based on the results. Feedback from our students and staff significantly contributes to the development of our university.

- **Quality Committee and Units:** To effectively implement quality management at our university, a quality committee and quality units have been established. The Institutional Analysis and Quality Development Coordination, along with the Strategic Planning and Quality Management Systems Branch Directorate, are responsible for developing, managing, and implementing institutional quality. The quality committee meets regularly to make decisions on quality management matters and oversees the implementation processes.

Our comprehensive approach to accreditation and quality management supports the University's vision of achieving **excellence in education** and continuous improvement. The outcomes of these processes enhance the University's **institutional reputation at both national and international levels**, while ensuring the delivery of education aligned with global standards. This approach also contributes to strengthening the University's competitiveness, academic quality, and **stakeholder satisfaction** in a measurable and sustainable manner.

1.2. Sustainability Management

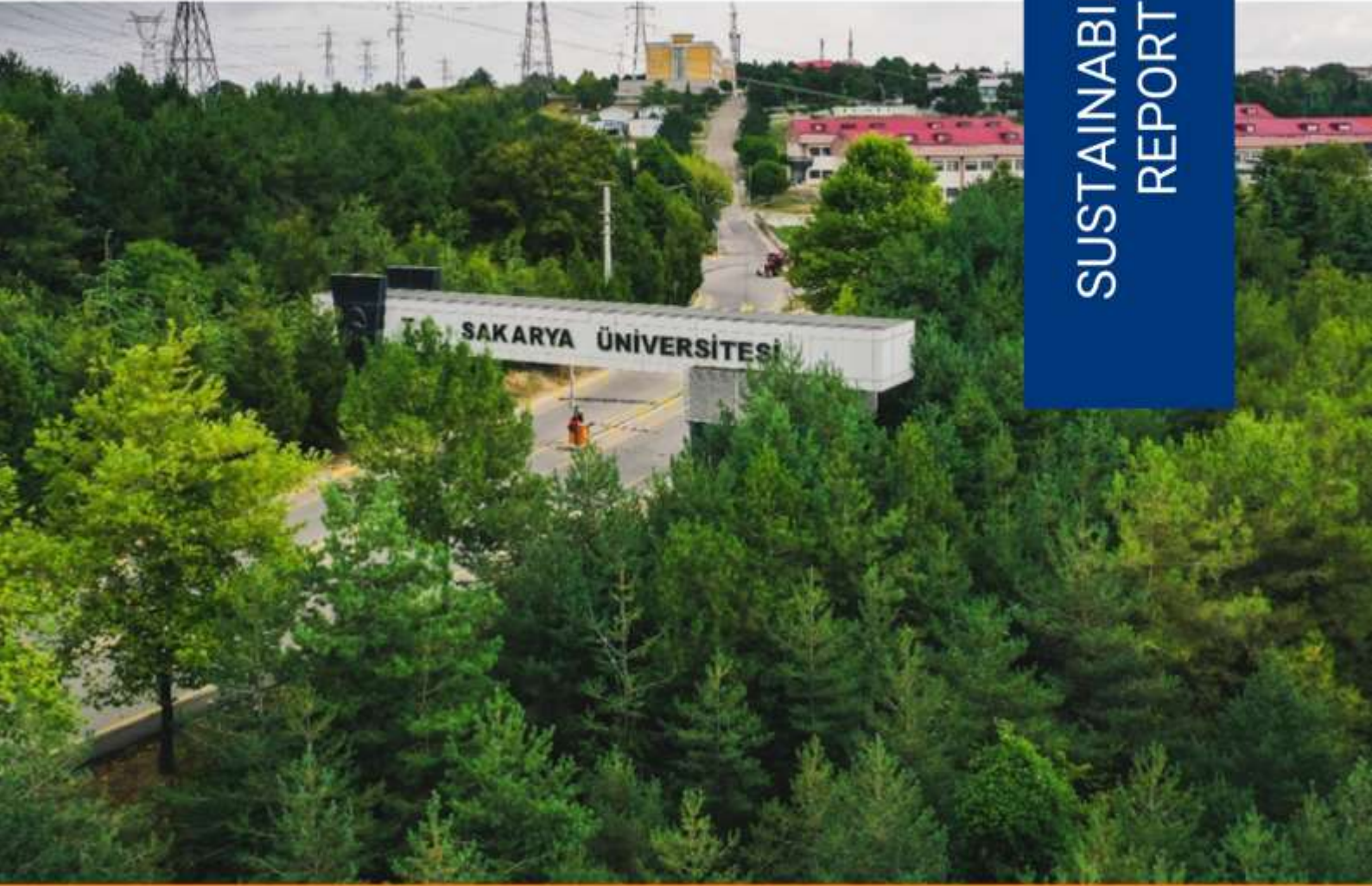
In line with its institutional strategy, Sakarya University established the Community Contribution and Sustainability Coordination Office (TOKAS) in 2023 to ensure the coordinated implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of sustainability practices across all units. This structure is supported by the University's dedicated sustainability platform, which enables the systematic tracking, reporting, and evaluation of sustainability performance.

TOKAS operates through **16 thematic commissions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, forming a structured governance mechanism that integrates sustainability into academic, administrative, and operational processes. These commissions are responsible not only for awareness activities but also for coordinating institutional practices, collecting data, and contributing to sustainability reporting processes.

The University's sustainability system is built on an integrated framework that combines **policy development, implementation, monitoring, and reporting**. Through campus-wide applications, sustainability practices are operationalized in areas such as **energy management, water efficiency, waste management, sustainable transportation, and biodiversity**. These practices are supported by institutional data systems and contribute directly to performance monitoring and continuous improvement processes.

Sakarya University adopts a **multi-stakeholder engagement approach**, working in coordination with public institutions, local governments, industry partners, and civil society organizations. These collaborations support the development of joint initiatives and applied projects, particularly in areas such as zero waste systems, environmental management, and social responsibility, strengthening the University's contribution to regional development.

In addition, TOKAS plays a central role in **awareness building and science communication**, organizing structured programs such as sustainability trainings, peer education initiatives, and thematic events. Platforms such as the Sustainable Future Meetings facilitate interaction between students, researchers, and external experts, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and strengthening the University's societal impact.



2. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Our Sustainable University Policy is,

- To integrate the ecological, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability into institutional practices and services, prioritizing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To adopt responsible resource consumption, waste management, and energy efficiency in order to minimize the university's ecological impact and reflect these practices in institutional operations.
- To embrace principles of gender equality, inclusivity, and partnerships for strong institutions and common goals in institutional governance.
- To uphold respect for fundamental, social, and economic human rights; to institutionalize occupational health and safety principles, academic freedom, and work ethics.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In line with its environmental sustainability objectives, Sakarya University implements a comprehensive set of practices aimed at reducing environmental impact and improving resource efficiency across campus operations. The University's environmental management approach focuses on **energy efficiency, water resource management, waste reduction, and biodiversity conservation**, supported by continuous monitoring and improvement mechanisms.

In the field of energy management, the University adopts both efficiency-oriented measures and renewable energy strategies. Energy-saving technologies are systematically integrated into campus buildings, while renewable energy sourcing is supported through market-based instruments. In 2025, Sakarya University continued to match and exceed its annual electricity consumption through **International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-REC)**, sourced from renewable energy types including solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. This approach contributes to reducing the University's carbon footprint and supports its transition toward low-carbon campus operations.

Water management practices are implemented through both infrastructure and behavioral measures. The University utilizes **rainwater harvesting systems, water-efficient fixtures, and aerators**, aiming to reduce water consumption and improve resource efficiency. These applications are supported by awareness activities and operational controls to ensure continuous improvement in water use performance.

Waste management is addressed through a **campus-wide zero waste system**, including source separation, recycling infrastructure, and awareness programs targeting students and staff. These practices support circular economy principles and contribute to reducing landfill waste while increasing recycling rates.

Biodiversity conservation is integrated into campus planning through **afforestation, landscape design, and habitat-supporting applications**. Green areas across the campus are designed to support ecological diversity, including the creation of habitats and feeding areas for various species, thereby enhancing ecosystem services and environmental quality.

These integrated practices contribute directly to the University's environmental performance and are reflected in its positioning within international sustainability frameworks.

2.1. Carbon Emissions and Energy Management

Sakarya University takes a systematic and long-term approach to reducing carbon emissions and strengthening energy management in line with its environmental sustainability strategy. The University prioritizes the transition to **low-carbon systems** through the integration of renewable energy sources and the improvement of energy efficiency across campus operations.

In 2025, Sakarya University continued to support renewable energy production exceeding its total annual electricity consumption through **International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-REC)**, sourced from hydroelectric, wind, and solar power. This approach contributes directly to reducing carbon emissions, accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels, and supporting the development of sustainable energy markets. The consistent use of I-REC certificates reflects the University's long-term commitment to **climate action** and its strategic target of achieving **carbon neutrality by 2053**.

Energy efficiency on campus is enhanced through the implementation of building energy management systems, sensor-based lighting and climate control technologies, and the optimization of natural lighting in renovated facilities. These applications contribute to reducing energy consumption while improving operational efficiency and user comfort.

In addition to operational practices, Sakarya University strengthens its capacity in energy systems through specialized research and application centers, in line with its **research university mission**. The **National Testbed Center for Critical Infrastructure (CENTER SAU)** plays a unique role at the national level as the only institution authorized by the Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EPDK) for the training, certification, and competency assessment of personnel conducting cybersecurity audits in the energy sector. This function contributes to the resilience, security, and sustainability of energy infrastructures, linking energy management with critical infrastructure protection.

Through the integration of operational practices and institutional expertise, Sakarya University adopts a **holistic and performance-oriented approach** to energy and carbon management, combining campus applications with research, capacity building, and sectoral contribution.

2.1.1. Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation

At Sakarya University, **90% of durable goods consist of energy-efficient equipment** and **85% of lighting systems utilize LED technology**, contributing significantly to reduced energy consumption. Energy usage is continuously monitored and reported through institutional energy management units, supporting data-driven decision-making and operational efficiency.

The University maintains its commitment to supporting **100% renewable energy**, prioritizing clean energy sources in both campus investments and research activities. In this context, financial and technical support is provided to research centers, while guidance for Research & Development (R&D) projects is coordinated through institutional mechanisms. Awareness-raising efforts, including seminars, trainings, and public events, contribute to promoting energy efficiency and clean energy use among students, staff, and the wider community.

Sakarya University also strengthens its capacity in renewable energy and sustainable technologies through its research ecosystem, which includes **more than thirty research centers and over ten R&D laboratories**. Centers such as **SARGEM** and **SAYMER** play a leading role in advancing applied research in areas such as solar energy systems and battery technologies.

In addition, student-led innovation plays a key role in the University's energy transition. The **Sakarya University Advanced Technologies Application Community (SAITEM)** actively develops applied projects in alternative energy and sustainable mobility. In 2025, SAITEM achieved **4th place in Türkiye at the TÜBİTAK Efficiency Challenge Electric Vehicle Competitions** with its vehicle "**Spark**", demonstrating the University's capacity to translate engineering knowledge into competitive and sustainable technological solutions. Beyond this success, SAITEM's portfolio includes solar- and hydrogen-powered vehicles and other pioneering projects such as the **Sakarya Solar Car (SAGUAR)**, the **Sakarya Hydrogen Vehicle (SAHIMO)**, the **Sakarya Solar Boat (SATEK)**, the **SAGUAR-E series**, the **Sauto Autonomous vehicle**, the **Sakarya Low-Altitude Test Satellite (SATU)** and the electric car "**EVrim**." These initiatives exemplify the breadth of the University's research in alternative energy and sustainable mobility and provide hands-on learning experiences for students.

Furthermore, research conducted by Sakarya University academics has contributed to advancements in **energy storage systems**, one of the critical components of renewable energy integration. In 2025, a **battery management technology** developed by University researchers was granted **three national**

patents, focusing on extending battery life, improving operational efficiency and enhancing the performance of energy storage systems. This innovation enables batteries to operate under optimal conditions, reducing operational costs and increasing reliability, particularly in large-scale renewable energy applications.



SPARK - 2025 TÜBİTAK Efficiency Challenge Competition

University further strengthened its research capacity in sustainable energy technologies through **TÜBİTAK-supported projects** focusing on next-generation battery systems and energy efficiency. Academic staff continued to contribute to national and international research networks, collaborative projects and policy-oriented initiatives addressing renewable energy, sustainable resource management and climate-related challenges. Through these activities, Sakarya University supports the development of innovative solutions that contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of energy infrastructure.

2.1.2. Smart Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Sakarya University prioritizes **energy efficiency** in all renovation and construction projects as part of its commitment to sustainable campus development. Through the Department of Construction and Technical Affairs, outdated equipment is systematically replaced with **energy-efficient alternatives**, while procurement processes prioritize products that support energy conservation and operational efficiency. These practices are regularly monitored and documented to ensure continuous improvement in campus energy performance.

Energy efficiency principles are integrated into both new construction and renovation projects. **Natural lighting and ventilation systems** are incorporated into building designs to reduce energy demand and improve indoor environmental quality. In addition, the University continues to expand the use of **water-efficient fixtures** and sustainable resource management practices across campus facilities, supporting a holistic approach to environmental sustainability.

New buildings are equipped with **energy management units** and **sensor-based systems** for lighting, water fixtures, doors and other building functions. These applications contribute to the efficient use of resources while enhancing operational performance. Sakarya University aligns its building management practices with national energy efficiency regulations and supports the objectives of **Türkiye's Energy Efficiency Strategy** and **National Energy Efficiency Action Plans**.

The University implements a comprehensive approach to energy conservation through the use of **energy-efficient equipment, smart building technologies, renewable energy applications** and **energy monitoring systems**. Energy consumption is continuously monitored through institutional management systems, and high-consumption areas are supported with energy-saving technologies to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

Existing buildings are regularly maintained and upgraded to improve their energy performance. During maintenance and renovation works, malfunctioning or outdated equipment is replaced with energy-efficient alternatives. Furthermore, renovation and construction projects are implemented in accordance with **Green Certification Building Criteria**, incorporating **building management systems, fire and flood warning systems, energy monitoring panels, LED lighting, sensor technologies** and **natural daylight solutions**.

Sakarya University continues to integrate **renewable energy applications** into its campus infrastructure through **rooftop solar energy systems, solar-powered lighting applications** and research-based renewable energy technologies. Campus development projects focus on improving building performance, reducing energy consumption and supporting the transition toward a smarter, more efficient and environmentally responsible campus. Currently, approximately **90% of campus buildings benefit from natural daylight utilization**, while **85% are equipped with energy control and monitoring applications**, demonstrating the University's ongoing commitment to smart and sustainable campus management.

2.2. Waste Management and Recycling

Sakarya University adopts a comprehensive and systematic approach to **waste management, resource efficiency and recycling**, aiming to prevent environmental pollution, reduce waste generation and contribute to the transition towards a circular economy. Through its waste management practices, the University seeks not only to minimize environmental impacts but also to recover valuable materials and create long-term economic and environmental benefits for society.

The University actively implements the [Zero Waste System](#) in line with national policies and continues to improve waste segregation, collection and recycling practices across its campuses. Awareness-raising activities, including training programmes, information meetings, promotional campaigns and student-focused events, are organized by the [Zero Waste Coordination Office](#) and the [Department of Environmental Engineering](#) to strengthen environmental responsibility among students, staff and external stakeholders.

In 2025, Sakarya University further supported sustainable consumption and recycling practices through campus-wide environmental awareness initiatives and resource recovery applications. The University continued to promote waste reduction at source, responsible consumption and the efficient use of resources, while integrating sustainability principles into daily campus operations.

The principles and requirements of zero waste management are also extended to supplier companies and service providers. Environmental obligations related to waste reduction, recycling and regulatory compliance are incorporated into procurement and service contracts, helping to strengthen

sustainability performance throughout the supply chain and ensuring alignment with institutional environmental objectives.

2.2.1. Zero Waste Policy

In accordance with the [Zero Waste Regulation](#), Sakarya University implements a comprehensive and institution-wide **Zero Waste Management System** through the [Sakarya University Zero Waste Directive](#) and the Zero Waste Coordination Office. The Directive defines the procedures and principles governing waste prevention, segregation, collection, recovery and recycling practices across all university campuses, ensuring a systematic approach to sustainable waste management.

As a result of its continuous efforts in waste management and resource efficiency, **all campuses of Sakarya University have been awarded the Zero Waste Certificate** by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. This certification demonstrates the University's compliance with national zero waste requirements and reflects its commitment to environmental protection, resource efficiency and circular economy principles. Through continuous monitoring, awareness-raising activities and operational improvements, the University continues to strengthen its zero waste practices and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns across its campuses.





Zero Waste Campus Certificates

2.2.2. Waste Collection and Storage

Sakarya University adopts a comprehensive waste collection and storage system as part of its commitment to the **Zero Waste Management System** and sustainable resource management. To facilitate waste segregation at source and increase recycling rates, approximately **1,200 waste collection bins** are located in accessible areas across university campuses. Waste is collected through a multi-compartment system that enables the separate collection of *plastic, glass, metal, paper and household waste*. In addition, all buildings are equipped with dedicated waste battery collection units to ensure the safe management of hazardous household waste.



Zero Waste Information Poster

Recyclable materials are transferred to licensed recycling companies, while hazardous and medical waste is stored and managed in accordance with national regulations before being delivered to authorized treatment and disposal facilities. Electrical and electronic waste, as well as metal and wood scrap, are separately collected and recovered through specialized recycling channels, supporting the efficient use of resources and reducing environmental impacts.

Sakarya University was the **first university in Türkiye to establish a Deposit Return System (DRS) on campus**. Through deposit return machines located across the campus, plastic, glass and metal beverage containers carrying the official deposit logo are collected and returned to the recycling

system. This practice supports the principles of the **circular economy**, increases the recovery of valuable materials and contributes to the reduction of waste sent to disposal facilities.

Through its integrated waste management infrastructure, Sakarya University continues to improve waste segregation, recycling and recovery practices while promoting responsible consumption and environmental awareness among students, staff and visitors.



DOA (Deposit Return System)

2.2.3. Reduction of Plastic and Single-Use Products

As part of its **Zero Waste Policy**, Sakarya University continues to implement measures aimed at reducing the consumption of plastic and single-use products across its campuses. In cafeterias, canteens, tea stations and other service areas, the University prioritizes the use of **durable, reusable and environmentally friendly alternatives** instead of disposable products. Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to adopt sustainable consumption habits through awareness activities and operational practices that promote waste prevention at source.

The University also integrates waste reduction principles into procurement and service management processes. Requirements regarding the reduction of single-use materials and the preference for reusable products are incorporated into service contracts and purchasing procedures, ensuring that suppliers and service providers align with the University's sustainability objectives.

These practices contribute to reducing plastic waste generation, increasing resource efficiency and supporting the transition towards a **circular economy**, while reinforcing the University's commitment to responsible consumption and sustainable campus operations.

2.3. Sustainable Transportation

Sakarya University promotes sustainable transportation as an integral component of its carbon management strategy and its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure transportation safety and support sustainable mobility across campus, traffic management processes are coordinated through the University Traffic Committee, while the principles governing vehicle circulation are defined in the Sakarya University Campus Motor Vehicle Traffic Directive.



Bicycle System on Campus

The University implements a **Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Policy**, prioritizing low-carbon transportation alternatives such as **electric vehicles, bicycles and electric scooters**. To support these modes of transport, dedicated bicycle paths, secure bicycle parking areas and pedestrian-priority zones have been established throughout the campus, contributing to a safer, healthier and more sustainable campus environment.

In addition, Sakarya University applies measures to reduce private vehicle dependency and encourage more sustainable travel behaviour. A controlled [vehicle access system](#) limits unnecessary vehicle use on campus, while public transportation is actively encouraged. Electric vehicle users are exempt from vehicle entry fees, providing an additional incentive for the adoption of low-emission transportation options. Weekend vehicle restrictions and off-campus parking facilities further support efforts to reduce traffic congestion and campus-related carbon emissions.

To facilitate the transition toward cleaner mobility, the University has installed **electric vehicle charging infrastructure** and continues to support environmentally responsible transportation practices. Through these initiatives, Sakarya University contributes to the reduction of transportation-related emissions, improves campus liveability and advances its commitment to sustainable and climate-conscious campus operations.

2.3.1. Remote Work and Education

Sakarya University has been a pioneer in **distance education** in Türkiye, investing in digital learning technologies, educational infrastructure and online programme delivery since the 1990s. The University's distance education activities are coordinated through the [Distance Education Research and Application Center](#), which provides the technical infrastructure, academic support and digital learning environment necessary for effective and accessible education. By expanding digital learning opportunities and reducing the need for physical travel, distance education contributes to resource efficiency and helps lower transportation-related emissions.

In addition, Sakarya University supports **flexible and remote working practices** where appropriate, contributing to operational efficiency and sustainable workplace arrangements.

2.3.2. Walking Paths and Pedestrian Priority

Sakarya University promotes a pedestrian-friendly campus environment as part of its sustainable transportation strategy. In accordance with the [University Vehicle Sticker User Agreement](#), have priority throughout campus areas, while vehicle speeds are limited to **30 km/h** to enhance safety and accessibility.

Pedestrian-priority principles are supported through traffic signs, road markings and awareness measures that encourage responsible driving behaviour. The University also continues to improve campus accessibility by expanding pedestrian-friendly areas and supporting bicycle infrastructure, contributing to safer, healthier and more sustainable mobility options for students, staff and visitors.

2.4. Water Management

Sakarya University adopts an integrated approach to water resource management, combining infrastructure investments, water efficiency measures and sustainable landscape practices to reduce water consumption and protect natural resources. At the Esentepe Campus, separate sewerage and rainwater drainage networks have been established, enabling effective stormwater management and supporting the sustainable use of water resources. Rainwater collected across the campus is directed through dedicated infrastructure systems designed to utilize natural topography and minimize environmental impacts.

The University continues to improve water efficiency through the implementation of water-saving technologies and infrastructure upgrades. In 2025, rainwater harvesting applications, water-efficient fixtures and sustainable water management practices were further expanded across campus facilities. A **500-litre rainwater storage tank** installed at the Faculty of Business Administration supports irrigation activities, while water-saving devices such as **perlator faucets and flow restrictors** have been incorporated into renovation projects across administrative and academic buildings. In addition, **plans for integrating grey-water systems into newly developed facilities form part of the University's ongoing efforts to enhance water efficiency and promote sustainable water management practices.**

Sakarya University collaborates with the **Sakarya Water and Sewerage Administration (SASKİ)** to improve water infrastructure and prevent water losses. These efforts contribute to the protection of drinking water resources, the prevention of contamination and the efficient operation of campus water systems. As a result of ongoing efficiency measures, the campus-wide usage rate of **water-efficient devices reached 90.56%**, demonstrating measurable progress in sustainable water management.

2.4.1. Irrigation and Landscaping

Sakarya University utilizes **alternative water resources** to minimize the use of potable water for landscape irrigation. Water collected within the campus is stored in **nine separate storage tanks** and used for irrigation purposes. Green areas are supplied with **spring water** through an **automated irrigation system** that transfers pressurized water to underground irrigation channels, ensuring efficient water distribution and minimizing losses.

Landscape planning is designed to reduce irrigation demand and support **biodiversity**. Plant species adapted to **Sakarya's climatic conditions** are prioritized, with **low-maintenance and drought-tolerant species**, including pine and cedar trees, widely used throughout the campus. This approach helps maintain healthy green spaces while reducing water consumption and supporting the **sustainable management of natural resources**.

2.4.2. Water Conservation

Sakarya University implements various practices to maximize **water conservation** and promote the efficient use of water resources. Water collected through **rainwater harvesting systems** across the campus is utilized for purposes such as landscape irrigation and providing water for stray animals. Water consumption is carefully managed through the widespread use of **water-saving devices** and efficiency-oriented technologies.

Examples include **spray filters, automatic urinal controls, waterless urinals, low-volume toilets, low-volume faucets** and **sensor-based taps**, all of which contribute to reducing water consumption and improving resource efficiency. The University applies water-efficient building standards across its campuses, ensuring that both existing and newly constructed buildings incorporate technologies that support sustainable water use.

As a result of these efforts, **more than 90% of all water-use devices on campus are water-efficient**, demonstrating the University's commitment to responsible water management and the conservation of natural resources.

2.4.3. Wastewater Treatment

According to the [Metropolitan Municipality Law](#), it is the duty and responsibility of metropolitan municipalities to provide water and sewerage services. Accordingly, wastewater generated at Sakarya University is treated at facilities operated by the **Sakarya Water and Sewerage Administration (SASKİ)** under the **Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality**. In areas such as cafeterias, where oily waste is generated, **vegetable waste oil storage units** and **oil filtration systems** are installed to prevent waste oils from entering the sewer system and contaminating wastewater.

The [2025 Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality Activity Report](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the operational principles, infrastructure investments and performance of regional wastewater treatment services. In collaboration with **SASKİ**, the University organizes educational visits to drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, enabling students to gain practical knowledge of water treatment processes and their importance for **public health, environmental protection** and **sustainable water management**.



Karaman Wastewater Treatment Facility, Sakarya

2.4.4. Drinking Water and Water Quality

Sakarya University provides free access to **safe drinking water** for students, staff and visitors across its campuses. Tap water supplied to the University complies with national drinking water quality standards and is subject to regular monitoring and analysis. Numerous studies and assessments conducted with the contribution of University academics have supported the quality and safety of the drinking water supplied to the campus.

To encourage the use of tap water and reduce reliance on bottled water, **water dispensers** are installed in accessible outdoor areas and can be used free of charge by campus users. These facilities support both sustainable consumption practices and the reduction of single-use plastic waste.



Water Dispensers on Campus

Due to Sakarya's location in a **first-degree earthquake zone**, regional water and wastewater infrastructure is designed with resilience considerations. Infrastructure investments, including steel transmission lines and system improvements implemented by the **Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality** and **SASKİ**, contribute to the reliability and continuity of water services.

The **SASKİ General Directorate** regularly conducts water quality monitoring through laboratory analyses and mobile testing units. The results confirm that the water supplied to the University meets or exceeds applicable national and international quality standards. Water quality data are publicly disclosed through the [Water Quality Report](#), supporting transparency and public confidence in drinking water safety.

2.5. Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management

Due to its location near **Lake Sapanca** and its proximity to water-rich ecosystems, Sakarya University conducts academic research and projects focusing on **water ecosystems, water quality** and the sustainable management of aquatic resources. Faculty members collaborate with local stakeholders and public institutions on studies aimed at monitoring, improving and ensuring the long-term sustainability of regional ecosystems.

The University undertakes direct initiatives to preserve and enhance existing ecosystems and biological diversity. Research conducted at the **Sakarya University Plant Tissue Research and Production Laboratory** focuses on the conservation of endangered plant species, the protection of genetic resources and the promotion of biodiversity, with particular attention to the sustainability of sensitive habitats.

In 2025, Sakarya University continued to contribute to biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts through regional research activities and field studies examining the diversity of plant and animal species in Sakarya Province. Biodiversity observation events and educational activities organized on campus enabled students to observe, identify and document local species, strengthening awareness of ecosystem conservation and environmental stewardship.

Campus landscape management supports biodiversity while minimizing resource consumption. Vegetation is predominantly composed of species adapted to the region's climatic conditions, particularly **pine and cedar trees**, which require relatively low levels of irrigation and maintenance. This approach contributes to the sustainable use of natural resources while maintaining healthy green spaces and ecological value across the campus. These environmental efforts are further supported through **student-led awareness activities, animal feeding areas** and **tree-planting events** that encourage active participation in environmental protection.

Tree species on the Esentepe Campus include **Plane, Linden, Cherry Laurel, Oak, Maple, Weeping Willow, Black Willow, Acacia, Top Acacia, Catalpa, Magnolia, Paulownia, Judas Tree, Ornamental Apple, Ornamental Plum, Ornamental Peach, Bead Tree (Melia Azedarach), Salt Cedar, Palm and Phoenix Palm**. Shrub species include **Mountain Medlar, Firethorn, Ligustrum, Flame Tree, Japanese Maple, Viburnum, Snowball Bush, Oil Viburnum, Goat's Beard, Golden Bell, Lilac, Hollyhock Rose, Oleander, Yellow Dyer's Broom, Wisteria, Bottle Brush, Boxwood, Spindle Tree, Pittosporum, Vangelya, Barberry, Rosemary, Erica Heather, Pampas Grass and Rose**. These species contribute to the ecological richness of the campus and support biodiversity conservation efforts.

All plant and tree species on the university campus, along with detailed information and the results of the labeling project, can be accessed at <https://bitki.sakarya.edu.tr/>.



Tree Species on Campus

Various animal groups, including **mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects**, can be found on the Sakarya University campus. The [flora](#) and [fauna](#) of Sakarya University are published on the university's website.





Examples of Campus Fauna

2.6. Environmental Awareness

Sakarya University promotes environmental awareness through an integrated approach that combines **education, research, community engagement** and **stakeholder collaboration**. Through courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and student-led initiatives, the University supports the development of environmental literacy and encourages responsible behaviour related to sustainability, climate action, resource efficiency and environmental protection.

To strengthen awareness of **Zero Waste Management, Energy Efficiency** and **Water Conservation**, the Zero Waste Coordination Office and the Department of Environmental Engineering organize training programmes, awareness campaigns, competitions, promotional activities and peer-learning initiatives. These activities address topics such as waste segregation, recycling, responsible consumption, energy conservation and sustainable resource management, while contributing to the dissemination of sustainability principles across campus and beyond.

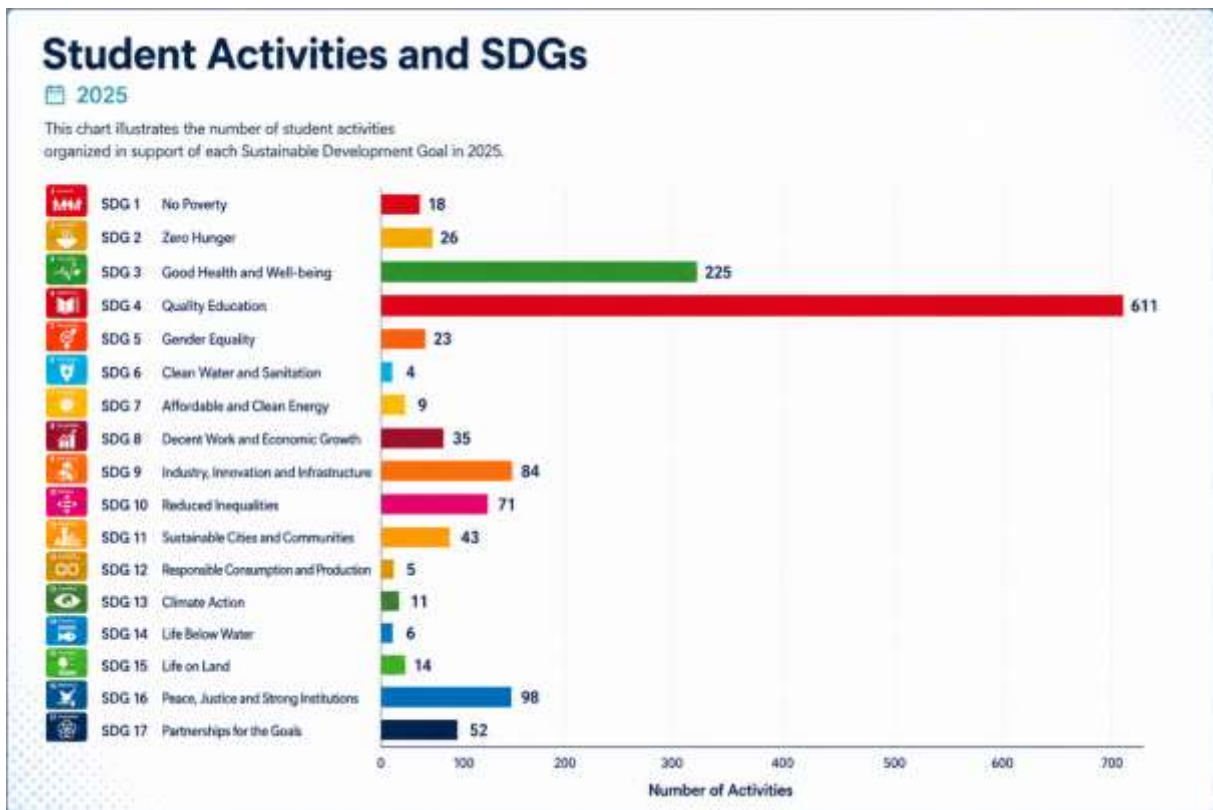
Environmental and sustainability-related learning opportunities are integrated into the educational experience of students from different disciplines. In addition to the **Sustainability Elective Course**, Sakarya University further expanded its sustainability education capacity through the **Climate Change and Sustainability Master's Programme (with thesis)**, which supports interdisciplinary research and learning on environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development within the framework of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

In 2025, the University continued to strengthen environmental awareness through a series of sustainability-focused events and stakeholder engagement activities. The **Sustainable Future Meetings (Sürdürülebilir Gelecek Buluşmaları)** brought together academics, students and external stakeholders to discuss sustainability challenges and future-oriented solutions, while the **Green**

Transformation-Oriented Seminar Series (Yeşil Dönüşüm Odaklı Söyleşiler) promoted dialogue on climate change, sustainable production, resource efficiency and green transformation. These activities contributed to expanding sustainability awareness both within the University and throughout the wider community.

Sakarya University also promotes environmental sustainability through research and innovation. A patented **“Recycling Machine”** developed by University researchers focuses on the recovery and reuse of composite waste generated during industrial production processes. The invention reflects the University’s commitment to developing innovative solutions that support **resource efficiency, waste reduction** and **circular economy** principles.

Student organizations continue to play an active role in fostering environmental responsibility through **tree-planting activities, nature walks, animal feeding area projects**, sustainability campaigns and volunteer-based environmental initiatives. Collectively, these activities contribute to the development of a sustainability culture on campus, strengthen environmental awareness and reinforce the University’s commitment to sustainable development and community engagement.



2025 Student Activities and SDGs



3. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SOCIETY

1 NO
POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



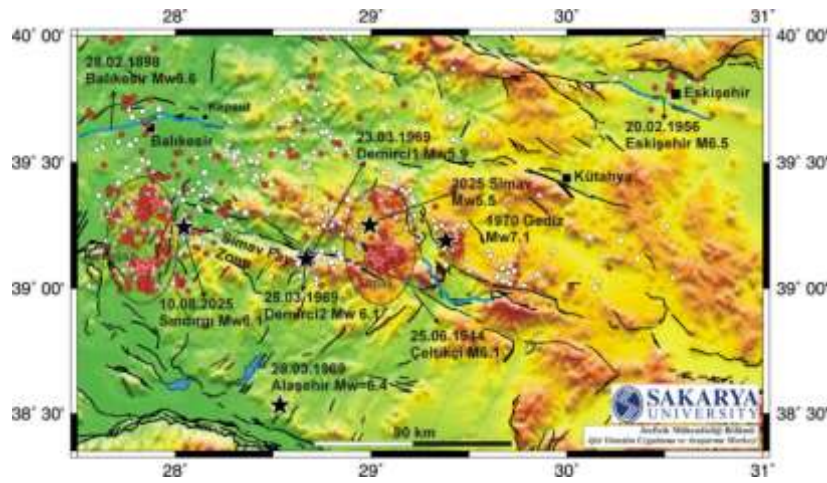
Our Community Contribution Policy

- To manage community contribution activities institutionally through defined processes within the university.
- To maintain stakeholder-focused, transparent, and accountable governance in line with the university's responsibilities toward its stakeholders.
- To conduct programs aimed at nurturing individuals with a strong sense of responsibility in line with the development of the university ecosystem and society, carrying out scientific studies addressing community needs and environmental health, and providing support.
- As a responsible university, to support sustainable communities by adopting principles of human rights, employee rights and welfare, occupational health and safety, academic freedom, and work ethics.

Sakarya University prioritizes social responsibility projects and community-oriented activities in line with its mission of contributing to society and promoting a sustainable future. Within this framework, the university collaborates with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to develop projects serving various segments of society in the fields of education, healthcare, environment, and social services.

3.1. Centers and Units Contributing to Community Development

In addition to its educational and research activities, Sakarya University continues to create value at the regional, national, and international levels through its research and application centers that support community development. These centers carry out activities benefiting society in diverse areas such as lifelong learning, healthcare, disaster awareness, social inclusion, women's and youth studies, cultural heritage preservation, legal support, digital education, and economic development.



Earthquake analyses published by the Disaster Management Application and Research Center contribute to increasing public awareness of disasters.



An educational program organized by the Addiction Prevention Application and Research Center enhanced parents' awareness of their role in combating addiction.



Among the centers operating in line with the university's community engagement mission, the Disaster Management Application and Research Center, Addiction Prevention Application and Research Center, Women's Studies Application and Research Center, Youth Studies Application and Research Center, Continuing Education Application and Research Center, Health Services Education Application and Research Center, Legal Clinics Application and Research Center, and Sakarya Economic and Social Research Center (SESAM) play prominent roles. Through these centers, educational programs, seminars, consultancy services, awareness campaigns, and field studies are conducted for different segments of society.

The university's health-oriented centers contribute to preventive healthcare services, scientific research, and improving health literacy, while education-oriented centers provide certificate programs and distance education opportunities that support individuals' professional and personal development. In this context, the Continuing Education Center and the Distance Education Application and Research Center play significant roles in promoting lifelong learning.

A panel organized by the Sakarya Economic and Social Research Center (SESAM) supported the culture of solidarity aimed at strengthening women and raising public awareness regarding violence against women.

Centers contributing to cultural and social development also conduct activities focused on preserving historical heritage, promoting intercultural interaction, and transferring academic knowledge to society. Centers specializing in Balkan Studies, Caucasus Studies, Turkology, Turkish World Studies, and Ottoman Studies contribute to strengthening cultural memory and developing international academic collaborations.

As of 2025, Sakarya University continues to strengthen its ties with society, expand knowledge and service production, and enhance its social impact capacity through its research and application centers in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.2. Alumni Relations and Social Transcript

Sakarya University attaches great importance to alumni relations as an institution that maintains strong connections with its graduates after graduation, regards them as institutional stakeholders, and embraces the principle of lifelong development. Through the Career Coordination Office, various activities are carried out to strengthen communication with alumni, support their career development, and maintain their connection with the university ecosystem.

A career event organized in collaboration with Turkish Airlines introduced students to sectoral opportunities and employment prospects, thereby supporting their career development.



The Career Coordination Office organizes career days, sectoral networking events, job and internship announcements, training programs, mentoring activities, and employer meetings for alumni, thereby contributing to their employment processes. These activities support graduates' professional development while establishing a strong interaction network based on experience sharing between students and alumni.

Through the Alumni Card program, the university aims to maintain graduates' relationship with the institution after graduation. Alumni Card holders benefit from various social, cultural, and institutional opportunities while maintaining their connection with campus life. This initiative serves as an important instrument for strengthening institutional belonging and increasing alumni satisfaction.

The Social Transcript system supports students' holistic development by documenting their academic achievements as well as their social, cultural, sports, volunteer, and personal development activities. It makes extracurricular achievements visible and helps graduates demonstrate their competencies during their transition into professional life.

As of 2025, Sakarya University continues to support its students after graduation through alumni relations management, career support mechanisms, and the Social Transcript system, thereby reinforcing sustainable institutional engagement.

3.3. Community Development Through Student Participation



Sakarya University aims to educate its students not only academically but also as socially responsible individuals by adopting a student-centered approach to community engagement. Significant contributions to community development are made through student clubs, volunteer activities, and social responsibility projects.

As of 2025, 21 of the university's 202 active student clubs operate in the field of environmental sustainability. Through these organizations, students participate in various projects related to environmental awareness, sustainable living, social responsibility, and volunteering.



One of the key organizations promoting student participation is the Student Club Promotion Days, which provide an important platform for encouraging students' active involvement in social and cultural activities. During the 2025 event, approximately 130 student clubs introduced their activities through exhibition booths and recruited new members. The participation of public institutions and local stakeholders further strengthened university-community interaction and encouraged volunteerism and student engagement.

Student clubs also conduct activities in healthcare, education, social services, and support for disadvantaged groups. Within the Hospital School Project, implemented in cooperation with Sakarya University and the Provincial Health Directorate, members of the Young Green Crescent Student Club visited children receiving treatment in the Pediatric Oncology Department of Sakarya Training and Research Hospital (SEAH), contributing to their morale and motivation.

Within the "No Barriers to Love" Project, students meet individuals with special needs at the Day Care and Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities under the Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services, carrying out activities that strengthen social interaction. The Printing and Painting Workshop organized by the Art History Student Club became a notable example supporting both enjoyment and social inclusion.

As part of the "Stronger Tomorrows from the Core" Project, implemented in cooperation with Sakarya University and the Provincial Mufti's Office, members of the Social Work Student Club met with children aged 4–6 attending the Hacı Saadet Akgün Qur'an Course. Through the "Respect for Ahl al-Bayt and the Elderly Workshop," children received values education while awareness regarding respect for older people was promoted.

Another activity promoting social solidarity, "A Sweet Peace," brought together members of the History Student Club and elderly residents at Hendek Melek Nişancı Nursing Home. Through the "Memories Speak" activity, intergenerational interaction was strengthened.

These activities enable students to develop competencies such as volunteering, empathy, social responsibility, leadership, and civic awareness while strengthening university-community engagement. This student-centered approach directly contributes to community development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

As of 2025, Sakarya University continues to increase its community engagement capacity through student clubs and volunteer activities, educating students as active, responsible, and solution-oriented individuals.

3.4. Education, Awareness, and Outreach Activities



Sakarya University does not limit its community engagement activities to practice-oriented projects but also seeks to create a sustainable transformation in public awareness through education, information dissemination, and awareness-raising activities. Accordingly, seminars, panels, training programs, and public awareness initiatives are organized for various target groups.

Educational and awareness activities focus on issues such as addiction prevention, combating violence against women, disaster awareness, health literacy, and social values. These initiatives are also supported through the Youth and Volunteering Course and Student Club, encouraging students to participate in volunteer-based activities and increasing their social awareness.

These activities are further supported internationally through the Sakarya University UNESCO Club, which contributes to promoting cultural heritage preservation, sustainable development, and global citizenship. Through this structure, the university aims to enhance students' international awareness and understanding of universal values.

The Women in Business Micro-Credential Program supports women's participation in social and economic life by improving female students' career development and equipping them with competencies in sustainability, entrepreneurship, and project management. The program also aims to increase participants' social awareness alongside their personal development.

Career events organized in cooperation with public institutions and private sector partners help students increase their professional awareness while gaining sector-specific knowledge and practical experience.

These education and awareness activities improve access to knowledge, promote sensitivity toward societal issues, and create widespread impact in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As of 2025, Sakarya University continues to diversify its education and awareness programs, further strengthening its contributions to public awareness and sustainability.

3.5. Cultural and Artistic Engagement



Sakarya University promotes cultural vitality through concerts, theatre performances, and outdoor events.

One of the prominent events is the Open-Air Cinema Nights at Çınaraltı Café, which transform the campus into a vibrant cultural gathering place.

The university also preserves and shares the city's historical and cultural heritage through the digital platform "Sakarya City Memory."

3.6. SABİS Community Engagement and Sustainability Module

To effectively monitor community engagement and sustainability activities, a dedicated module has been integrated into the Sakarya University Information System (SABİS). Through this module, activities conducted by academic staff and student clubs are systematically recorded, linked with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and supported with documentary evidence.

This system enables the university's community engagement performance to be monitored regularly, transparently, and verifiably while allowing institutional evaluation of sustainability activities.

3.7. Social Responsibility and Institutional Culture

Sakarya University regards social responsibility not merely as a duty but as a fundamental component of its institutional identity. According to the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YÖK), the university ranks among the top 20 universities in Türkiye in social responsibility and community engagement indicators, demonstrating its institutional commitment through measurable achievements.

One of the university's key social responsibility organizations is SAÜDAK (Sakarya University Volunteer Natural Disaster Search and Rescue Unit), established in 2019. The unit conducts volunteer-based activities in search and rescue, first aid, firefighting, psychosocial support, and disaster awareness training. Through SAÜDAK, students and volunteers actively participate in disaster preparedness and response processes, contributing to increased community resilience.

The outcomes of this institutional approach are reflected in national evaluation reports. In the 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation Report published by the Council of Higher Education, Sakarya University ranked among the top 20 universities in Türkiye across 24 different performance indicators covering education, research and development, internationalization, and community engagement, demonstrating a multidimensional and balanced institutional performance.

Through these initiatives, Sakarya University continues to make social inclusion, volunteerism, and community engagement integral components of its educational and governance philosophy, contributing to the development of a sustainable institutional culture.



4. EDUCATION & TRAINING

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Our Education and Teaching Policy

- To adopt a competency-based, innovative, and application-oriented education model in collaboration with the industry that equips learners with the skills needed for the future, lifelong learning abilities, and professional skills.
- To provide learners with learning opportunities that meet the requirements of an evolving and changing era, offering these opportunities face-to-face, online, blended, or hybrid.
- To strengthen the relationship between undergraduate and graduate education programs and research and development activities through applied training and new models.
- To continuously improve education and teaching processes with the participation of students and other stakeholders, enhancing national and international collaborations.

4.1. Accreditations

Sakarya University delivers high-quality education through programs accredited by respected national and international bodies, ensuring compliance with recognized academic and professional standards. These accreditations affirm the University's commitment to continuous improvement, quality assurance, and global competitiveness.

- **AACSB Accreditation:** Business and management programs in the Faculty of Business and the Institute of Business, including undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, hold accreditation from the *Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business*.
- **MÜDEK Accreditation:** Several engineering and computer science programs, including Computer, Civil, Electrical-Electronics, Environmental, Food, Industrial, Mechanical, and Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, are accredited by the *Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Engineering Programs*.
- **FEDEK Accreditation:** Programs in the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, covering disciplines such as Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, German Language and Literature, German Translation and Interpreting, Geography, Philosophy, Sociology, History, and Turkish Language and Literature, are accredited by the *Science, Literature, Faculty of Science and Letters, Faculty of Languages, History-Geography Curriculum Programs Evaluation and Accreditation Association*.
- **EPDAD Accreditation:** Multiple teacher education programs in the Faculty of Education, including Science Education, Elementary Mathematics Education, English Language Teaching, Preschool Education, Special Education, Guidance and Psychological Counseling, Classroom Teaching, Social Studies Education, and Turkish Language Teaching, are accredited by the *Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs*.
- **HEPDAK Accreditation:** The Nursing program in the Faculty of Health Sciences is accredited by the *Nursing Education Evaluation and Accreditation Association*.
- **SABAK Accreditation:** The Midwifery program in the Faculty of Health Sciences is accredited by the *Health Sciences Accreditation and Evaluation Board*.
- **IAA Accreditation:** The Theology program in the Faculty of Theology is accredited by the *Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency*.
- **İLEDAK Accreditation:** Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising, and New Media and Communication programs in the Faculty of Communication are accredited by the *Communication Education Evaluation and Accreditation Board*.
- **İLAD Accreditation:** The Visual Communication Design program in the Faculty of Art, Design, and Architecture is accredited by the *Communication Research Association*.
- **STAR Accreditation:** Undergraduate programs in Political Science and Public Administration, Economics, Labor Economics and Industrial Relations, and International Relations in the Faculty of Political Science are accredited by the *Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Accreditation Board*.
- **MEDEK Accreditation:** Programs in the Vocational School of Health Services, including Medical Laboratory Techniques, Paramedics, and Elderly Care, are accredited by the *Medical Education Evaluation and Accreditation Association*.

Sakarya University adopts innovative approaches to embed sustainability principles into both education and research. Academic programs are designed to provide students and faculty with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to address environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Curricula across faculties are enriched with courses focused on **sustainability-related themes**, including environmental engineering, renewable energy, climate change, and sustainable development. These offerings equip students with a strong **awareness of sustainability** and the capacity to contribute to solutions at local, national, and global levels.

To further strengthen this integration, the Sakarya University Information System (SABIS) has been updated to link courses, academic publications, and research projects directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This enhancement ensures that the University's educational and research outputs are systematically aligned with **global sustainability targets**, supporting evidence-based monitoring and reporting.

4.2. Education Programs

Sakarya University is a dynamic and forward-looking institution that delivers education and research activities in line with **internationally recognized standards**. Educational policies are regularly reviewed and refined to ensure continuous improvement, enhance student achievement, and support career readiness.

Through a learner-centered approach, the University integrates innovative teaching methods, interdisciplinary perspectives, and practical learning opportunities into its programs. This approach not only fosters **academic excellence** but also equips graduates with the skills, adaptability, and ethical awareness needed to address contemporary global challenges.

Sakarya University launched the “Women Shaping Their Future Academy: Women in Business Micro-Credential Program”, the first micro-credential program in Türkiye designed exclusively for female students. The program aims to empower women for professional life through free, high-quality training delivered by industry leaders and expert academicians.

Consisting of two modules on career development, workplace competencies, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, the program provides participants with essential knowledge and practical skills for professional growth.



Poster of the “Women Shaping Their Future Academy” Program

4.2.1. Associate and Bachelor's Programs

Sakarya University offers a comprehensive portfolio of undergraduate programs that equip students with in-depth knowledge and practical skills across diverse disciplines, aligning with their academic interests and career aspirations. These programs are designed to foster **critical thinking, problem-solving abilities**, and a culture of **innovation**, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully in their professional fields and to address contemporary societal challenges.

Of the associate degree program courses, **187 are associated with the Sustainable Development Goals**. Some of these courses include Earthquake Hazards and Risk Management, Occupational Health and Safety, Health Information Systems, Medical Waste Management, Healthy Living and Exercise.

Of the bachelor's program courses, **2,833 are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals**. Some of these courses include Sustainability, Urbanization and Environmental Planning, Environmental Education, Environmental Ethics and Awareness, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Law, Environmental Geology, Environmental Health Management, Environmental Toxicology, Environment and Energy, Environmental Management Systems, Renewable Energy Sources, and Green Marketing.

4.2.2. Graduate Programs

Graduate education is a core strength of **Sakarya University**, offering **Master's** and **PhD programs** that enable students to advance their research capabilities and deepen their expertise in specialized fields. Led by **internationally recognized faculty members** and supported by a **comprehensive research infrastructure**, these programs provide an academically rigorous environment that fosters innovation, critical inquiry, and the production of high-impact scholarly work.

Of the master's program courses, **1,480 are associated with the Sustainable Development Goals**. Some of these courses include Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Education, Global Climate Changes, Global Plastic Pollution and Sustainability, Introduction to

Renewable Energy Sources, Agriculture-Based Renewable Energies, Introduction to Disaster Science and Fire, and Energy Supply in Disasters.

Of the PhD program courses, **620 are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals**. Some of these courses include Watersheds, Risk Assessments in Water Management and Climate Change, Sustainability and Integrated Reporting, Rural Development (Agriculture, Tourism, Culture), Clean Energy, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, and the Use of Treatment Sludges in Agriculture.

4.2.3. Distance Education and Lifelong Learning

Sakarya University aims to enhance accessibility in education by providing opportunities for distance education and lifelong learning. [Distance education programs](#) offer students a flexible learning environment, allowing them to learn at their own pace. Additionally, various certificate programs and short courses are available to promote lifelong learning.

Some of the trainings provided by the Sakarya University [Continuous Education Application and Research Center](#) include:

- Sustainable Development Training for Climate Change Adaptation – SDG 13 (*Climate Action*)
- Certificate Program in Building and Collective Structure Management – SDG 11 (*Sustainable Cities and Communities*)
- Occupational Health and Safety Training – SDG 3 (*Good Health and Well-Being*) and SDG 8 (*Decent Work and Economic Growth*)
- Hygiene Certification Program – SDG 3 (*Good Health and Well-Being*)
- Fire Safety and Risk Prevention Training – SDG 11 (*Sustainable Cities and Communities*) and SDG 3 (*Good Health and Well-Being*)
- Basic Sign Language Training Program – SDG 10 (*Reduced Inequalities*)
- Child Privacy Education Certificate Program – SDG 4 (*Quality Education*) and SDG 16 (*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*)



5. RESEARCH

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Our Research and Innovation Policy

- To strengthen the research ecosystem that enables researchers' ideas related to research and innovation to be transformed into projects or scientific work.
- To conduct research and innovation activities in a coordinated manner in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities.
- To emphasize multidisciplinary, international, and national collaborations within research and innovation activities and provide the necessary environments.
- To create a research climate where researchers and strategic stakeholders are recognized and rewarded, fostering an open science environment.
- To provide support in guidance, financial matters, and intellectual property rights to maintain a sustainable research environment and conditions.
- To adopt a continuous improvement approach by periodically evaluating the university's research footprint.

RESEARCH

Sakarya University places great importance on **research and innovation**, making significant investments to strengthen its scientific capacity. The University's research strategy emphasizes **interdisciplinary collaboration**, encouraging partnerships across faculties and research centers to generate knowledge that addresses complex global and local challenges. With a strong focus on **sustainable and socially beneficial solutions**, Sakarya University integrates research into its broader mission of contributing to science, technology, and society. Building on its growing research capacity, the University continues to expand the scope and impact of its research activities at national and international levels.

In 2025, Sakarya University further strengthened its research and innovation capacity through **35 invention disclosures** submitted by its academic staff. During the year, researchers filed **31 national patent applications, 6 national utility model applications and 19 international patent applications**, while **11 national patents and 2 national utility models** were officially registered. These outcomes reflect the University's continued commitment to knowledge generation, technology transfer and the commercialization of research outputs.

Patent and utility model applications submitted in 2025 also contributed to sustainability-oriented research through innovative approaches in circular economy practices, resource efficiency, sustainable materials and waste valorisation. Notable examples include:

- Production of Activated Carbon from Olive Pits Using a Rotary Kiln (National Patent Application)
- Method for Producing White Pigment from Mussel Shells (National Patent Application)
- Method for Producing Dark Blue Natural Dye from Privet (Ligustrum) Fruit (National Patent Application)
- Smart Packaging Solution with a pH-Sensitive Colour Change Indicator for Monitoring Food Freshness (National Patent Application)

5.1. Research Centers and Laboratories

Sakarya University's extensive research infrastructure, comprising **35 research and application centers** and numerous advanced laboratories, provides students and academics with a dynamic environment for interdisciplinary research and innovation. Equipped with modern technologies and research facilities, these centers support scientific studies across a wide range of fields, including **engineering, health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences** and emerging **sustainability-related disciplines**.

In 2025, research activities continued to be strengthened through an increasing focus on **sustainability-oriented research, digital transformation and societal impact**. Research centers and laboratories actively supported studies in areas such as **renewable energy, energy storage systems, climate change, water resource management, circular economy, biotechnology and disaster resilience**. These activities contribute to the generation of knowledge and technologies that address both regional needs and global sustainability challenges.

The University also promotes **interdisciplinary collaboration** among academic units, research centers, public institutions, industry partners and international stakeholders. Through national and international projects, researchers contribute to scientific advancement while supporting **evidence-based solutions** for environmental, economic and social sustainability.

By transferring the knowledge, technologies and innovative solutions generated through research to society, Sakarya University strengthens its contribution to **sustainable development**, supports

informed decision-making processes and enhances the well-being of communities at local, national and global levels.

5.2. Projects and Publications

Sakarya University is actively involved in numerous research projects at both national and international levels. Conducted in collaboration with public institutions, industry partners and international stakeholders, these projects generate solutions to a wide range of social, economic, environmental and technological challenges. Through its growing research portfolio, the University contributes to scientific advancement while supporting sustainable development and innovation.

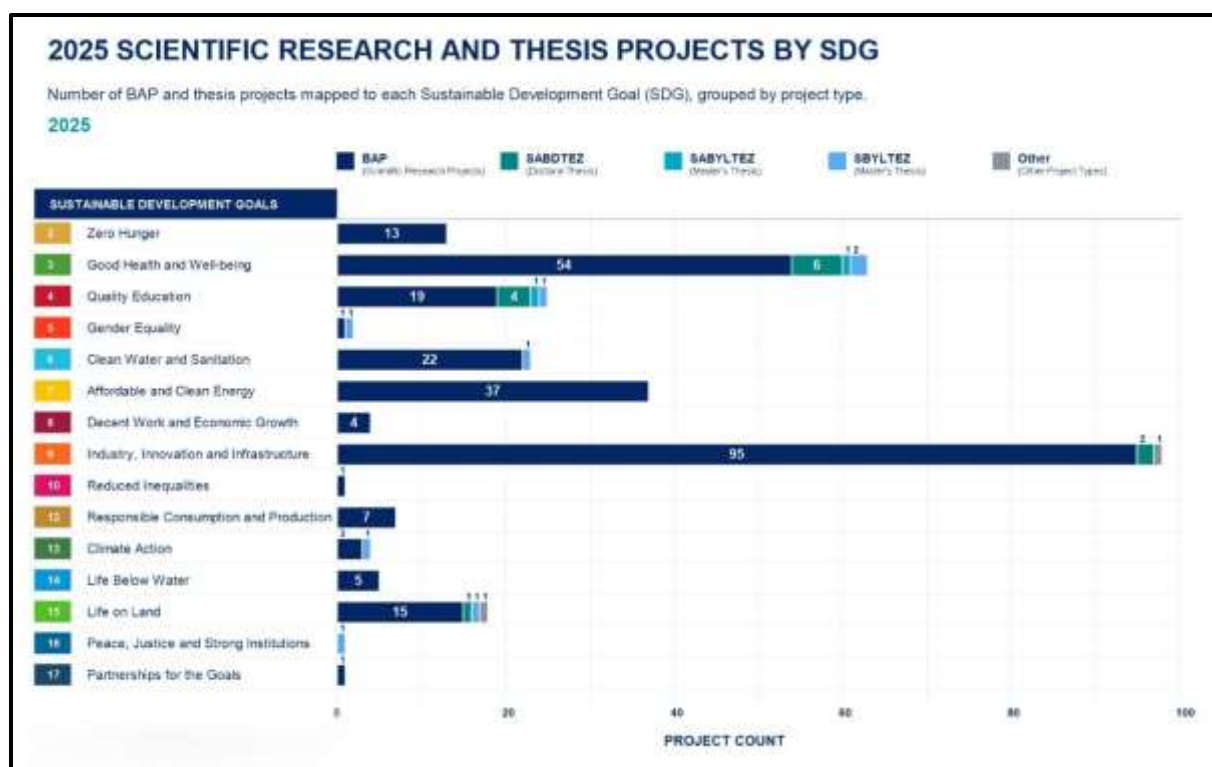
In line with its research and innovation policy, the University continues to strengthen its research ecosystem through the [Research Dean's Office](#) (ARDEK), which coordinates research and development activities and supports researchers throughout the project lifecycle. ARDEK provides services including project development support, proposal writing training, researcher networking and thematic research group coordination, contributing to the continuous improvement of research performance and project capacity.

In 2025, Sakarya University supported **302 active projects** under its Scientific Research Projects (BAP) programme. These projects included doctoral and master's thesis projects, research projects, publication support initiatives, early-career researcher projects and interdisciplinary studies, reflecting the University's commitment to research excellence, capacity building and sustainable development.

The University also managed **144 active externally funded projects** supported by national and international funding programmes. These projects were funded by organizations including **TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye)**, **TÜSEB (The Health Institutes of Türkiye)**, **TAGEM (General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies)** and international funding schemes. This diverse portfolio demonstrates the University's growing success in attracting competitive research funding and strengthening its contribution to **scientific, technological and societal development**.



Distribution of TÜBİTAK-Supported Projects by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2025



Distribution of Scientific Research Projects (BAP) by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2025

In addition to national research funding, Sakarya University actively participates in international programmes under **Erasmus+**, including **Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE/KA2)** projects and **Jean Monnet Actions**, as well as initiatives within the **European Solidarity Corps**, biodiversity and environmental conservation programmes, and the **Horizon Europe** framework. These projects collectively strengthen the University's contribution to sustainability, innovation, social inclusion and scientific cooperation at both national and international levels.

Furthermore, postdoctoral research activities are supported through **Career Start Projects**, which aim to foster early-career researchers and promote advanced scientific output within the University. Through its growing portfolio of international collaborations, Sakarya University contributes to knowledge exchange, capacity building and the development of innovative solutions aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Summaries of selected international projects are presented in the tables below. For more detailed information on Sakarya University's ongoing and completed international collaborations, please visit the [Sakarya University International Office website](#).

Project Name	Wellness Integration and Smart Education for Understanding and Prevention (WISE-UP)
Responsible	Prof. Dr. Hüseyin ÇALIŞKAN – Sakarya University
Programme	ERASMUS-EDU-2024-POL-EXP-DIGITAL
Project Number	101196078
Budget	€902.669,00
Summary	The WISE-UP Project addresses the challenges faced by young people in the digital age by promoting digital well-being, preventive health, and mindfulness-based education. The project aims to equip students and educators with tools to better understand and manage digital stress while fostering healthier digital habits and emotional resilience. Through interactive workshops, educational methodologies, and a multilingual digital

	application, WISE-UP supports the integration of mindfulness practices into educational environments and contributes to healthier, more inclusive and supportive learning ecosystems.
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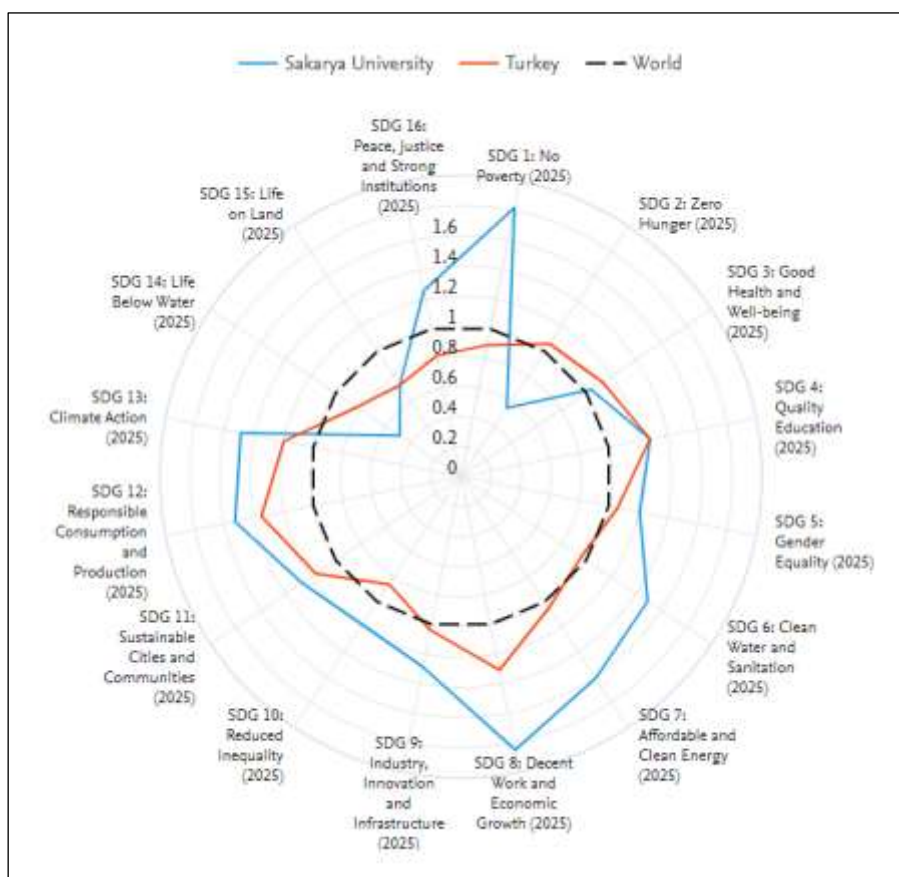
Project Name	Feasible Recovery of critical raw materials through a new circular Ecosystem for a Li-Ion Battery cross-value chain in Europe
Responsible	Dr. Hasan ALGÜL (PhD)- Sakarya University - Project Partner
Programme	Horizon Europe - FREE4LIB
Budget	€ 9.283.175,00
Summary	FREE4LIB aims to develop TRL 5-6 technologies to establish six sustainable processes for EOL LIB recycling, including dismantling, pre-treatment, and four materials recovery steps. These innovative solutions target efficient recovery of metal oxides, metals, and polymers, enhancing EU secondary resource supply. Additionally, FREE4LIB includes three processes for metals and polymers re-use and electrode synthesis for new LIB manufacturing, along with exploring options for non-reusable element management.
Website	https://www.freeforlib.eu/

Project Name	The Role of Sustainable Schools as a Principal Change Agent to Achieve European Sustainability Agenda – SUSTAINEU
Responsible	Prof. Dr. Mustafa BAYRAKÇI - Sakarya University
Programme	Erasmus - Jean Monnet Module
Project Number	101176877
Summary	The SustainEU Module aims to promote sustainability awareness and education within the European higher education framework. The module equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and values required to build environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable educational institutions, while also advancing research and dialogue on the EU Sustainability Agenda. Developed as an elective course on sustainable schools for undergraduate and graduate students in the Faculty of Education, the module is also offered as a general elective across all faculties at Sakarya University. Complementary activities such as workshops, seminars, book reviews, and summer schools—support community integration and engage students, educators, policymakers, NGOs, and local stakeholders. Through its interdisciplinary approach, SustainEU contributes to fostering sustainability competencies and strengthening the university's role in promoting the European Union's sustainability goals in higher education.

Project Name	Promoting Sustainable, Affordable Housing Construction Technologies Using Environmentally Sound Locally Available Resources
Responsible	Lecturer Dr. Tuba TATAR - Sakarya University
Programme	ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CBHE, (Capacity building in the field of higher education)
Project Number	101179647
Budget	€ 780.404,00
Summary	The PURSUE Project promotes the development of sustainable, affordable, and hazard-resilient housing through the use of eco-friendly, locally available construction materials. Recognizing the housing deficits and climate-related risks faced by countries such as Mozambique, Somalia, and Tanzania, the project emphasizes environmentally responsible construction practices that support equality, health, and social well-being. By encouraging the use of earth-based and low-impact materials, PURSUE contributes to reducing the environmental footprint of the construction sector while enhancing community resilience. Coordinated by Sakarya University under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) program, the project brings together universities from Türkiye, Portugal, and Sub-Saharan Africa to advance research, innovation, and training aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly

	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, and Partnerships for the Goals.
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Project Name	Protecting the Natural Heritage of Wolves: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Effective and Socially Acceptable Management of Wolf-Dog Hybridization Across Europe
Responsible	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Morteza NADERI - Sakarya University
Programme	Horizon Europe, the European Biodiversity Partnership
Project Number	222N122— Wolfness
Summary	The project focuses on addressing the challenge of anthropogenic hybridization between wolves and domestic dogs in Europe, which threatens biodiversity and the genetic integrity of wild wolf populations. It aims to establish a European research and conservation network to monitor hybridization, develop science-based management strategies, and enhance public awareness and acceptance of conservation measures. By promoting data-driven decision-making and adaptive policies, the project contributes to biodiversity protection and the improvement of EU wildlife conservation frameworks in human-dominated ecosystems.
Website	https://www.biodiversa.eu/2023/04/19/wolfness/



SAU Relative Activity Graph: Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (Scival 2024-2027)

The above graph illustrates the distribution of Sakarya University's research activities across the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Research projects demonstrate particularly strong contributions to **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)**, **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)** and **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, reflecting the University's

commitment to addressing scientific, technological and societal challenges through research and innovation. Contributions across a broad range of SDGs further demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of the University's research ecosystem and its alignment with sustainable development priorities at local, national and global levels.

5.3. Funding and Support Programs

To support research activities, Sakarya University continues to provide diverse funding and support programmes financed through both internal resources and external funding agencies. These programmes enable students and researchers to secure the resources necessary for scientific inquiry, innovation and knowledge production, while strengthening the University's overall research capacity.

Among the University's international activities, **Erasmus+ KA131 and KA171 projects** are actively implemented under the framework of **Mobility for Higher Education Students and Staff**. Through these programmes, Sakarya University promotes academic mobility, strengthens international cooperation and enhances the global competencies of students and staff. In addition, researchers benefit from a wide range of national and international funding opportunities coordinated through the Research Dean's Office (ARDEK), supporting project development, research collaboration and scientific excellence.



6.CAMPUS LIFE

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



CAMPUS LIFE

Sakarya University's accessibility and inclusion efforts continued to expand and mature in 2025. The campus offers a vibrant environment enriched by libraries, sports facilities and social venues, and an array of student clubs that promote personal growth and community engagement. Inclusivity is managed through the [Barrier-Free Life and Support Coordination Office](#), which appoints Accessibility Representatives in every faculty and administrative unit. These representatives liaise with students to ensure that learning materials, buildings, services and social activities are fully accessible.

To support equal participation, the University has developed a comprehensive accessibility framework covering physical, educational, socio-cultural and digital domains. In the **2025 Programme Badge competition, Sakarya University ranked first in Türkiye with 40 academic programmes** recognised for their **accessible teaching** and support practices. Across faculties such as Education, Law, Theology, Humanities and Social Sciences, Business, Engineering and Art, programmes are adapted to support students with visual, hearing, physical and intellectual impairments. These accessible programmes complement the University's success in the national "**Accessible University Flag Awards**," where the University holds **13 Orange Flags** (physical accessibility), **20 Green Flags** (educational accessibility) and **3 Blue Flags** (socio-cultural accessibility). Additional flags were awarded in 2023 and 2024, recognising improvements to buildings such as the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Business Administration and the Faculty of Science.

Digital inclusion remains a priority. In 2024 the University received the **Barrier-Free Informatics Education Award** for its Accessible Lifelong Learning Project. This project, carried out jointly by the Barrier-Free Life and Support Coordination Office and the Continuing Education Application and Research Center (SAÜSEM), improved the SAÜSEM website and course interfaces, adding keyboard shortcuts, lecture notes with subtitles for hearing-impaired learners and colour-contrasting subtitles for participants with low vision. Exams were redesigned to work with screen readers, enabling visually impaired learners to complete assessments independently. Throughout 2025 the University continued to offer staff training to embed these practices across other units.

A major component of digital accessibility is the **Accessible Sakarya University Information System (SABİS)**. SABİS integrates the University's digital services and coordinates accessibility improvements across websites and applications. The University's websites now present announcements and news in accessible formats, and social-media posts by University units are shared with accessibility considerations. SABİS supports accessible distance education: visually impaired students can navigate live online classes using keyboard shortcuts and screen-reader-compatible chat, screen-sharing and whiteboard features, while hearing-impaired students can follow automatic subtitles. Exams are adapted to allow extra time, accessible question formats and screen-reader compatibility, and students with muscular disorders can click through courses and assessments with minimal effort. These measures ensure that students with disabilities can participate in all aspects of academic life without needing external assistance.

Overall, through programme-level accessibility badges, national Flag Awards, digital accessibility projects such as the Accessible Lifelong Learning Project and the SABİS platform, and proactive capacity-building initiatives, Sakarya University continues to advance equal opportunity and inclusion. The University's policies and practices ensure that students and staff with special needs are fully integrated into academic and social life, positioning Sakarya University as a national leader in accessible higher education. In support of these efforts, the Barrier-Free Life and Support Coordination Office continues to organize awareness-raising activities, training programmes and stakeholder engagement initiatives aimed at fostering an inclusive and accessible campus culture.



Sakarya University maintains a vibrant and inclusive campus environment that fosters learning, wellbeing and community engagement. Lecture halls, conference rooms, classrooms and laboratories are designed around anticipated student numbers to support modern teaching, research and practical laboratory work.



Kahve Keyfi Cafe

Beyond the classroom, the campus offers a rich range of social spaces including canteens, a central cafeteria, Kahve Keyfi, Kitap Keyfi and Çınaraltı Akademi, where students and staff can meet, study and participate in cultural activities. Library users benefit from 24/7 access to subscribed databases and e-resources through the [VETİS Campus External Access](#), ensuring continuous support for learning and research.



Kitap Keyfi Book Cafe

The University sees **art and culture as an integral part of campus life** and supports students' creative expression through stage performances, concerts, exhibitions and artistic events that reflect its cultural diversity. Social life is enriched by **concerts, open-air cinema screenings and spring festivals**, which create a lively campus atmosphere and encourage students to socialise and build shared experiences. In addition, Sakarya University hosts **numerous academic conferences, symposia and workshops at national and international levels**, providing platforms for scholarly exchange across disciplines. These cultural and academic events, combined with a comprehensive network of dining, health, sport and social services, ensure that the campus remains a dynamic and supportive environment for students and staff.

Dining services are provided through **eight cafeterias (four on the Esentepe campus and four on other campuses)**. During exam periods, additional soup or meal services are offered in the library, and free iftar meals are provided during Ramadan. Throughout the year, local municipalities distribute soup to students.

Health and well-being are supported by the [Medico-Social Centre](#), a Ministry of Health-licensed primary healthcare facility providing routine and emergency outpatient services along with psychological counselling. Sport and recreation are encouraged through **two artificial-turf football fields, two tennis courts, two basketball-volleyball courts and a basketball-tennis court**, all available by appointment.



Sports facilities at Sakarya University

The University organises events and clubs spanning football, basketball, volleyball, handball, karate, taekwondo, judo, wrestling, table tennis, badminton, rowing, boxing, tennis, arm wrestling and chess.



“Kahve Keyfi” Cafe

A high-speed digital infrastructure underpins campus life: the main campus is connected to the **ULAKNET backbone via a 3.5 Gbps metro line**, while satellite campuses have **50-200 Mbps Metro Ethernet connections**, providing free internet access for students and staff and supporting distance education, digital learning and academic information systems across the University.



A peaceful and green learning environment in the heart of nature

The **Youth Office** coordinates a broad programme of social, artistic and sporting activities, volunteer projects, environmental awareness initiatives, social responsibility projects, youth camps and historical and cultural trips. In **2025**, students participated in numerous conferences, sector meetings, career days, entrepreneurship activities and experience-sharing programmes that strengthened their professional development and engagement with industry.

To further enhance student services, a **new Student Cafeteria** has been developed to expand dining capacity and provide a modern and comfortable dining environment. The facility is expected to become operational soon and further strengthen campus amenities.

Campus security has been reinforced through additional **security checkpoints**, and emergency contact numbers are available in every building to ensure that students and staff can access assistance whenever needed.



A sustainable and inclusive campus inspiring learning, connection, and well-being

7. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE
STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS

7.1. Stakeholder Analysis

The expectations, needs, and contributions of all stakeholders are of great importance for Sakarya University to achieve its vision and mission. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University maintains continuous communication and collaboration with its stakeholders. Stakeholders are classified according to the nature of their relationship and level of interaction with the University as follows:

1. Service Recipients

This group includes students, alumni, industry representatives, public institutions, non-governmental organizations, and various segments of society that benefit from the University's education, research, innovation, and community engagement activities. It also includes partner organizations that collaborate with the University in research projects, social responsibility initiatives, practice-oriented education, and sustainable development activities.

2. Service Providers

This group consists of academic and administrative staff, researchers, project partners, suppliers, institutions supporting practice-based education, and service providers. These stakeholders contribute to the sustainable implementation of the University's education, research, and community engagement activities.

3. External (Key) Stakeholders

External stakeholders comprise institutions and organizations that directly or indirectly influence, or are influenced by, the University's activities. These include public institutions, local governments, private sector organizations, professional associations, national and international universities, research centers, and civil society organizations.

Sakarya University's strategic stakeholders include students, alumni, academic and administrative staff, the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), the Higher Education Quality Council (YÖKAK), the Interuniversity Council, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the Governorship of Sakarya, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality, Sakarya Technopark Inc., Sakarya University of Applied Sciences, the Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SATSO), non-governmental organizations, and international higher education networks.

The University also actively participates in numerous boards, commissions, and working groups focusing on climate change, water management, disaster risk reduction, addiction prevention, women's empowerment, cultural heritage preservation, public health, social services, and sustainable development. Through these participations, Sakarya University contributes its expertise to public policy development, develops solutions addressing societal needs, and strengthens multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

7.2. Institutional Protocols and Agreements

Sakarya University collaborates with numerous national and international institutions in the fields of education, research, community engagement, and sustainable development. Through partnerships with public institutions, local governments, civil society organizations, and international organizations, the University transfers its knowledge and expertise to society while contributing to policy development processes.

During 2025, the University's academic and administrative staff served in the following boards, commissions, working groups, and advisory mechanisms:

- Council of Higher Education Advisory Commission for Business Sciences
- Advisory Commissions under the Council of Higher Education Recognition and Equivalency Services
- Green Transformation Workshop organized by the Council of Higher Education Project Development and Support Department
- Sakarya and Susurluk River Basin Sectoral Water Allocation Planning Project coordinated by the General Directorate of Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Sakarya Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (YUSEP)
- İzmir Bay Scientific Committee and İzmir Bay Emergency Action Plan studies
- Sapanca Lake Action Plan technical meetings
- Provincial Wetland Commission activities
- Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (İRAP) and disaster management initiatives
- TERRA and MARAP projects coordinated by AFAD
- Provincial Coordination Board and Provincial Technical Board for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family
- Provincial Coordination Board and Action Plan for Women's Empowerment
- Provincial Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Commission on Combating Violence Against Women
- Provincial Commission for the Second National Autism Action Plan (2023–2030)
- Provincial Working Group for the Roma Strategy Document Action Plan
- Provincial Coordination Board and Case Evaluation Meetings on Combating Addiction
- Provincial Consultation and Migration Coordination Board coordinated by the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management
- Intangible Cultural Heritage initiatives
- National Forestry Program of Türkiye (TUOP) workshops
- International Zero Waste Forum
- National Competency Initiative collaborations coordinated by the Presidency of Defence Industries

Through these collaborations, the University actively contributes to decision-making processes in the areas of sustainable development, environmental management, social inclusion, disaster resilience, public health, education, and cultural heritage preservation.

7.3. Contribution to Public Policy

Sakarya University contributes to policy development at the local, regional, and national levels by sharing its scientific knowledge and expertise with public institutions.

In 2025, the University:

- Contributed to the preparation of the Sakarya Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan;
- Participated in the preparation of the Sakarya and Susurluk River Basin Water Allocation Plans;
- Provided academic support for the Sapanca Lake Action Plan;
- Served on the Izmir Bay Scientific Committee;
- Participated in the activities of the Provincial Wetland Commission;
- Played an active role in the Provincial Coordination Board on Combating Addiction and case evaluation processes;
- Contributed to the Provincial Action Plan for Women's Empowerment and the Provincial Coordination Mechanisms on Combating Violence Against Women;
- Supported the Provincial Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family;
- Participated in the Provincial Action Plan for the Roma Strategy Document;
- Provided academic support for the implementation of the Second National Autism Action Plan;
- Collaborated with AFAD and other public institutions on disaster risk reduction and resilience projects.

The University's interdisciplinary expertise contributes to the development of evidence-based public policies and their implementation in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

7.4. Partnerships

Sakarya University develops multi-stakeholder partnerships at both national and international levels to transform academic knowledge into societal benefit.

The University's major partnerships in 2025 include:

- Membership in the Union of Turkic Universities under the Organization of Turkic States
- Collaboration with the Turkish Software Federation (TÜYAFED) in artificial intelligence, technology, and entrepreneurship
- Cooperation with the University of Indonesia in student and academic staff exchange, joint research, and co-supervised graduate theses
- Collaboration with Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality on climate change adaptation policies and sustainability initiatives
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on water management and ecosystem conservation
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change on zero waste and environmental management
- Partnership with AFAD on disaster risk reduction, resilience, and training activities
- Cooperation with the Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SATSO) on regional development and disaster preparedness
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services on social policies concerning families, women, children, older adults, and persons with disabilities
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Provincial Directorates of Health on addiction prevention and public health projects
- Erasmus+ and other international partnerships focusing on youth participation, digital media literacy, and combating disinformation

Through these partnerships, Sakarya University strengthens knowledge sharing in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, expands its societal impact, and actively participates in national and international networks promoting sustainable development.



8. FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE
STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS

Sakarya University has established its goals and objectives through the [2023-2027 Strategic Plan](#).

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 - To achieve Qualified Education by providing higher education services that equip learners with the knowledge and skills necessary for their evolving career needs, in accordance with international standards.

- **Objective 1.1** - To utilize continuous improvement processes to enhance the quality of academic programs and strengthen internal quality assurance mechanisms.
- **Objective 1.2** - To increase the use of new approaches, techniques, and tools (innovative teaching technologies) in education and training programs and to adapt learning environments accordingly.
- **Objective 1.3** - To implement systematic approaches to improve students' learning strategies and faculty members' teaching competencies.
- **Objective 1.4** - To develop and expand student support services such as student counseling, accessibility for disabled students, and career counseling based on diversity.
- **Objective 1.5** - To offer a variety of programs that facilitate reskilling and skill development within the framework of lifelong learning.

Goal 2 - To lead the regional research development and innovation ecosystem by providing knowledge, projects, technology, and art production that will expand the university's research footprint.

- **Objective 2.1** - To increase the university's research and innovation outputs through high-quality publications.
- **Objective 2.2** - To enhance knowledge production through national and international qualified projects, scientific, and artistic activities.
- **Objective 2.3** - To increase scientific and innovative outputs that add value within research activities and provide the necessary environment for technology transfer.
- **Objective 2.4** - To strengthen structural, sustainable, and systematic collaborations with stakeholders in the research and innovation ecosystem.
- **Objective 2.5** - To secure sustainability by strengthening and supporting the university's research capabilities.

Goal 3 - To strengthen the understanding of community service and social responsibility through the bond between the university and the community, while implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with respect for nature, humanity, and society in all processes.

- **Objective 3.1** - To improve the institutional governance structure to enhance relationships with the community and ensure sustainability; to present more university data for open access to ensure accountability and transparency.
- **Objective 3.2** - To strengthen collaboration, partnerships, and coordination with SAU's internal and external stakeholders.

- **Objective 3.3** - To enhance green campus practices that contribute to reducing the ecological footprint on campus, increasing energy efficiency, and integrating smart technologies.

Goal 4 – To increase the university's international preferability, collaboration, and visibility by benefiting from mobility programs, international collaborations, and global opportunities.

- **Objective 4.1** - To increase the number of international mobility opportunities.
- **Objective 4.2** - To strengthen the university's international collaborations.
- **Objective 4.3** - To enhance the university's level of internationalization.
- **Objective 4.4** - To strengthen the university's institutional capacity and competencies regarding internationalization.
- **Objective 4.5** - To increase the university's international recognition through international promotion, rankings, and enhancing global visibility.

Goal 5 - To ensure organizational agility and institutional quality by empowering employees and embracing change management.

- **Objective 5.1** - To enhance the effectiveness of the University Advisory Board and the Advisory Boards of its units.
- **Objective 5.2** - To ensure quality by measuring and developing institutional service quality in collaboration with stakeholders.
- **Objective 5.3** - To manage financial resources in line with the university's goals.
- **Objective 5.4** - To continuously improve the university's institutional capacity and human resources.

Sakarya University will continue its efforts to achieve sustainability goals in the coming years. The university integrates sustainability principles into education, research, and community engagement to raise individuals who are sensitive to both environmental and social issues.

Future priorities include increasing energy efficiency, conserving water resources, improving waste management, and protecting biodiversity across all campuses. Alongside these environmental goals, the university also focuses on enhancing social welfare and inclusion by supporting projects that promote equal opportunity in education, community well-being, and lifelong learning.

Sakarya University aims to strengthen collaboration at both the national and international levels to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these efforts, the university will continue to act as a bridge between academia and society—developing solutions that not only protect the environment but also improve social resilience and quality of life.

By maintaining its pioneering role in sustainability, Sakarya University remains committed to working with all stakeholders to implement impactful projects that contribute to a fair, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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