Sabancı University
Climate Action Plan
2025

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Introduction

A Message from Senior Management

Climate change is not just an environmental crisis; it is a global problem that directly affects social welfare, economic stability, and scientific progress. At Sabancı University, in line with our principle of creating and developing together, we bear responsibility for shaping a sustainable future and assume a pioneering role in this transformation.

In line with this belief, we have prepared the Climate Action Plan to act as a roadmap that determines how our university will transform in critical topics such as carbon neutrality, the transition to renewable energy, circular economy practices, sustainable transportation, and water management. We are committed to reducing our emissions in alignment with science-based targets (SBTi) and achieving our campus's net-zero carbon emissions target.

This plan aims not only at operational changes, but also at creating a broader impact through education, research, and community partnerships. With our research centers, such as the Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate(IICEC), the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), and the Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center (SUNUM), we develop partnerships spanning industry and the public sector and develop policies in line with Türkiye's 2053 Net-Zero Emission target and the European Green Deal.

A sustainable future is only possible with the active participation of all stakeholders. At Sabancı University, together with our students, academics, employees, and business partners, we will continue to take action and lead the way for a cleaner, fairer, and more sustainable world.

Güler Sabancı
Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees

Aim and Scope of the Report

At Sabancı University, we act with an awareness of our environmental, economic, and social responsibilities in line with our vision to “create and develop a sustainable future together.” Facing climate change, which is one of today’s most pressing global challenges, we believe that universities play a vital role in creating solutions, raising social awareness, and supporting sustainable transformation in line with the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Accordingly, we are very pleased to introduce our first Climate Action Plan at Sabancı University. This plan translates our sustainability commitments into concrete steps and offers a holistic transformation process covering carbon neutrality, transition to green energy, circular economy practices, and sustainable campus strategies.
We aim to contribute not only on a campus scale, but also academically and industrially to Türkiye’s transition to a low-carbon economy by developing policies in line with Türkiye’s 2053 Net-Zero Emission target. Our Climate Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with this goal and aims to mobilize the knowledge and competencies of the Sabancı University community to create sustainable solutions through interdisciplinary research, innovative education programs, and partnerships with industry and the public sector.

In this context, we encourage scientific studies that contribute to environmental sustainability and develop concrete actions in collaboration with students, academics, administrative units, and the private sector. We strive to carry out the entire process with a transparent, participatory, and measurable approach.

In the fight against the climate crisis, we continue our efforts to cultivate the leaders of the future, raise public awareness, and support innovation, considering not only today but also tomorrow. At Sabancı University, we are committed to building a sustainable future together with science and technology-based solutions.

Sabancı University's Sustainability Journey

Sabancı University's sustainability journey has been shaped by an awareness of environmental responsibility since its foundation, and this has evolved into systematic climate action over time. Our important milestones on this journey are listed below.

Our Climate Action Milestones

1997
- Sabancı University was designed with an eco-friendly campus approach that is in harmony with nature, energy efficient, and uses resources responsibly.

1998
- We became the first university from Türkiye to be accepted to the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM).

2012
- Our ISO 9001 Quality Management System was certified.

2018
- Our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System was certified.
- An initial Scope 1, Scope 2 and limited Scope 3 emission calculation was performed.

2019
- Our ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System was certified.

2022
- We received a Zero Waste Certificate.
- Our first I-REC Certification was acquired.

2023
- The Sustainability Unit was established.
- A Net-Zero Campus target was established (for Scope 1 and 2 emissions).
- The Battery Engineering Master's Program (ENS) opened.

2024
- A 1.1 MWe Solar Power Plant (SPP) was installed.
- Our first carbon footprint calculation according to the GHG Protocol was completed.
- Electric vehicle charging stations were installed.

2025
- The Sustainability Minor Program (SBS) opened.
- Our greenhouse gas emissions were verified according to ISO 14064 and GHG Protocol.
- Our Climate Action Plan was created.
- Our Race to Zero application was approved.

In line with these developments, we have identified specific measures and actions to reduce our environmental impact and integrated our greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies into every stage of our operations.

Consistent with our international commitments, we joined the **“Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges”** initiative in 2025 and **formalized our 2050 net-zero emission target.** In this context, we support our emission reduction targets with concrete steps by setting the 2021-2022 academic year as the base year.

Within the scope of our Nature and Life for a Sustainable Future agenda, we strengthen our decarbonization targets and our climate actions through our academic programs, industry partnerships, and innovative projects.

We develop interdisciplinary academic programs and implement innovative education models such as the Sustainability Minor Program and the Battery Engineering Master’s Program.

We support sustainable development by developing collaborations between the industrial and public sectors with our research centers, such as Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC), the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), and SUNUM.

2

Governance Mechanism

Governance Mechanism

Sabancı University has fully integrated sustainability, climate change, water management and other environmental issues into its governance mechanism. Environmental strategies are identified, monitored, and managed through the university's governance mechanism. This mechanism plays an active role in achieving sustainability goals by ensuring a proactive approach to environmental risks and opportunities.

The Board of Trustees is the highest decision-making body of the university and is responsible for the performance within the scope of sustainability efforts. The Board of Trustees considers the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the university's operations and developments in these matters while reviewing the sustainability strategy and deciding on the recommendations.

Senior management's support during sustainability efforts is critical for the realization of sustainability action planning. Through the leadership of senior management, the sustainability framework is adopted at the highest level and embedded in the institution's identity.

Sabancı University's material sustainability topics and sustainability targets for these topics are reviewed periodically every year. In this process, progress is monitored and regularly reported using sustainability indicators. The targets are regularly monitored under the leadership of senior management and revised when necessary.

In the university's structure, the Sustainability Unit operates under the leadership of the Procurement and Operations Directorate. It plays a key role in implementing sustainability-oriented strategies for our operational processes. This unit undertakes critical tasks such as measuring carbon and water footprints, developing sustainability projects, and coordinating energy efficiency practices across the campus.

Sabancı University has established a Sustainability Partners structure consisting of academic and administrative units as well as centers and forums within the university to evaluate various scenarios for achieving sustainability goals, establishing a comprehensive communication network with the university community, and developing concrete recommendations. This structure aims to contribute to strategic decision-making processes by adopting a holistic approach from a sustainability perspective.

Sabancı University's climate change and sustainability governance structure, detailed in Figure 1, offers a comprehensive management model. This structure ensures that sustainability policies are supported not only at the decision-making level, but also through implementable and measurable actions.

Sabancı University Sustainability Governance Mechanism

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- President
- Secretary General
- Vice President (Research)
- Vice President (Education)
- Vice President (Institutional Affairs and Social Impact)
- Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences
- Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Dean of the School of Business

SUSTAINABILITY UNIT

- Procurement and Operations Director
- Sustainability Manager

COORDINATORSHIPS

- President's Office Group Manager
- General Secretariat Office Group Manager
- Office of the Vice President for Education
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- Office of the Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Social Impact
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative (SUCool)
- Strategy Office

ACADEMIC UNITS

- Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Sabancı Business School
- Center for Individual and Academic Development (CIAD)
- Civic Involvement Projects (CIP)
- School of Languages
- Professional Graduate Programs (PYL)
- Foundations Development Program (FDP)
- International Relations Office (IRO)

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

- Ankara Project Office
- Research Policy Development Office
- Information Center
- Information Technologies
- Services
- Legal
- Human Resources
- Institutional Partnerships and Alumni Relations
- Financial Affairs
- Student Resources
- Marketing and Institutional Communications
- Procurement and Operations
- SUATT Research Development and Technology Transfer Office

CENTERS AND FORUMS

- SUGENDER Gender and Women's Studies Research and Application Center
- IICEC Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate
- IPC Istanbul Policy Center
- CGFT Corporate Governance Forum of Turkey
- EDU Executive Development Unit
- EFSUN Center of Excellence on Nano Diagnostics
- CEF Center of Excellence in Finance
- IMC Integrated Manufacturing Research and Application Center
- SUNUM Nanotechnology Research and Application Center
- CEDA Center of Excellence in Data Analytics

Figure 1. Sabancı University Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Structure

Established in 2023, the Sustainability Unit is responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting sustainability strategies. The Unit acts as the secretariat of the Sustainability Committee structure, coordinates our strategic goals within the scope of sustainability and projects, monitors investment processes, and organizes sub-committee work. It also organizes meetings and events, leads the creation of sustainability action plans, and guides and directs the work of the units.

The agendas set by the Sustainability Unit are presented to the Steering Committee and aligned with the university's overall strategic planning. Under the leadership of the Senior Management, sustainability agendas are evaluated, and decision-making processes are carried out in accordance with the determined indicators, performance criteria, and international sustainability standards. Approved topics are forwarded to the Board of Trustees, the final decision-maker, as material topics.

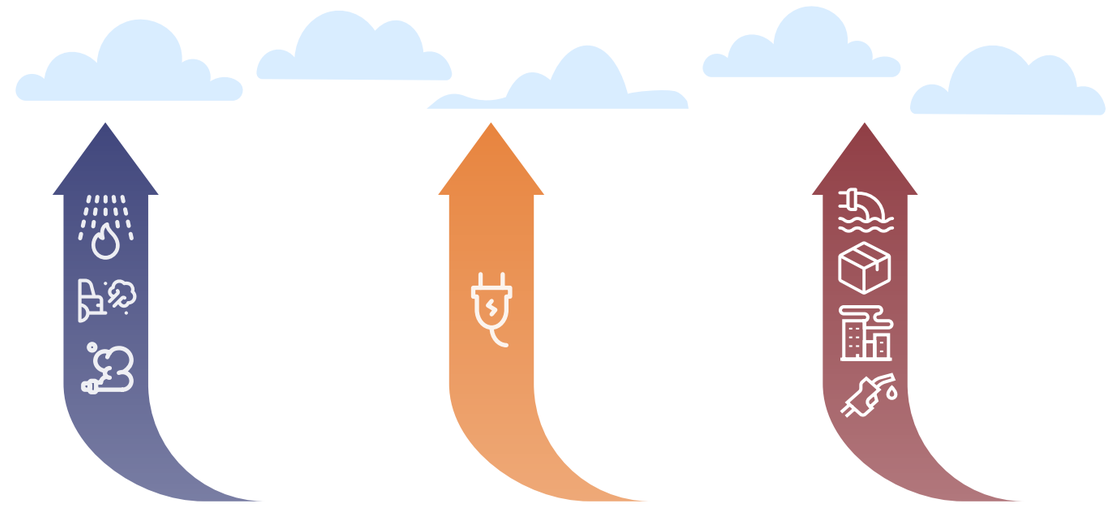
Approved sustainability agendas are communicated to the relevant subcommittees and sustainability partners for action by the Sustainability Unit. In this process, necessary actions are taken by the relevant departments, applications are initiated, and progress is regularly reported. The progress of strategic sustainability goals is monitored through annual evaluation reports and performance tracking indicators. Sustainability efforts at Sabancı University are carried out through a multidisciplinary approach and a collaborative 'sustainability partners' structure involving faculties, programs, administrative and academic units, centers, and forums.

3

Current Situation Analysis

Current Situation Analysis

To comply with global targets in the process of adapting to climate change, a current situation assessment and analysis are conducted as a priority. Sabancı University has been creating a greenhouse gas inventory since the 2018-2019 academic year and reporting Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions according to the GHG Protocol.



Scope 1

This refers to the direct emissions of the university. Stationary combustion sources on campus, mobile combustion sources, and emissions from leakage are calculated under this category.

Scope 2

This refers to indirect emissions from purchased energy. In this scope, only the university's emissions from purchased electricity are evaluated.

Scope 3

This refers to other indirect emissions not included under Scope 1 and Scope 2. Purchased goods and services, water consumption, capital goods, indirect emissions from energy and fuel, indirect emissions from transportation and distribution, waste, wastewater, emissions from business travel, accommodation, employee shuttles, student travel and leased assets are monitored under Scope 3.

- Emissions related to leakage (cooling equipment and fire extinguishers)
- Stationary combustion sources (natural gas and diesel)
- Water consumption, waste, wastewater
- Emissions related to business travel, accommodation, student travel, and leased assets
- Mobile combustion sources (on-road and off-road vehicles)
- Purchased electricity
- Purchased goods and services, capital goods
- Energy and fuel, transportation and distribution, employee shuttles

While Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are calculated with campus-specific data, general data sets can be used for Scope 3 emissions. In addition, Scope 2 emissions are monitored based on both location and market. The change in our emissions over the years is shown in Table 4.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Scope 1	6,794.43	6,009.11	6,772.37
Scope 2 – location-based	3,074.78	4,084.58	2,225.61
Scope 2 – market-based	3,074.78	1,249.66	0
Scope 3	11,088.18	12,812.17	12,409.40

Table 4. Changes in Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 Emissions by Year, tCO2e

As a result of our climate actions, our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions were reduced by **31.4%** in the reporting year compared to the 2021-2022 academic year, which was set as the base year. This success is a result of our university's energy efficiency and sustainability-oriented practices. On the other hand, our Scope 3 indirect emissions increased by **11.9%** compared to the base year, due to the increasing number of students and the growing supply and transportation needs.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of our university's emissions by source for the 2023-2024 academic year. When the distribution of our emissions for the 2023-2024 academic year is analyzed, natural gas consumption is found to be the largest source of emissions on campus. This is followed by emissions from the goods and services purchased by the university, while the third largest source of emissions is emissions from student travel.

**Figure 2 accounts for Scope 2-market-based emissions.

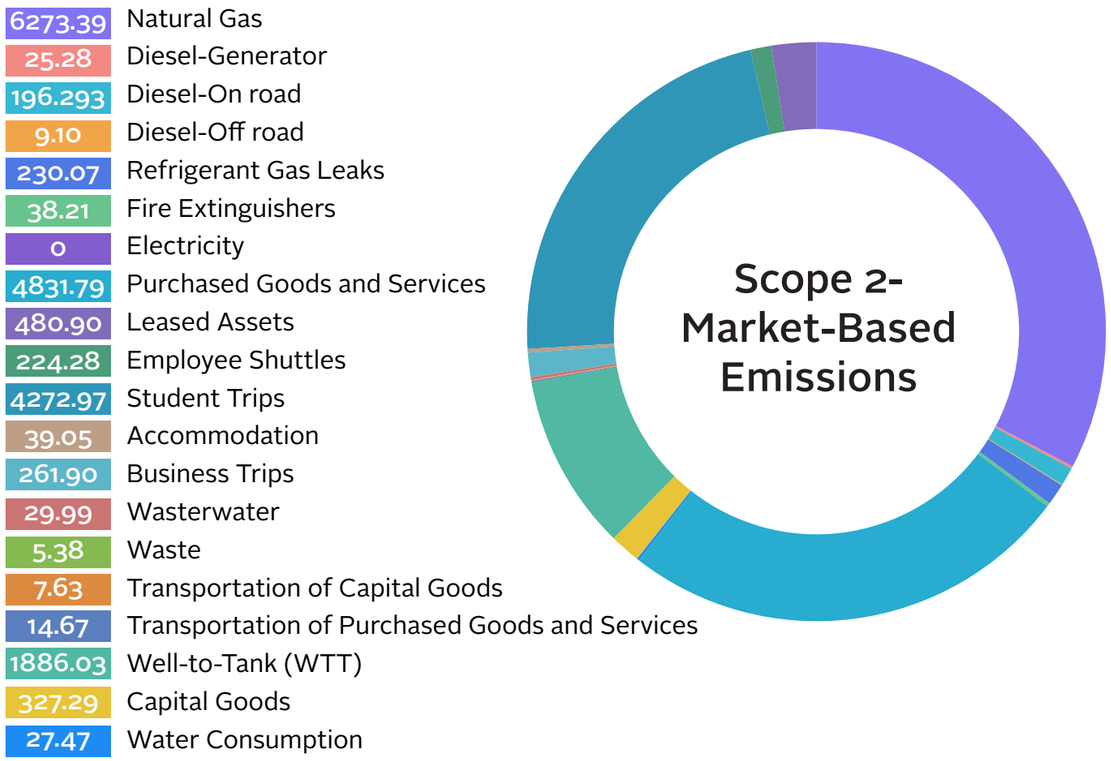
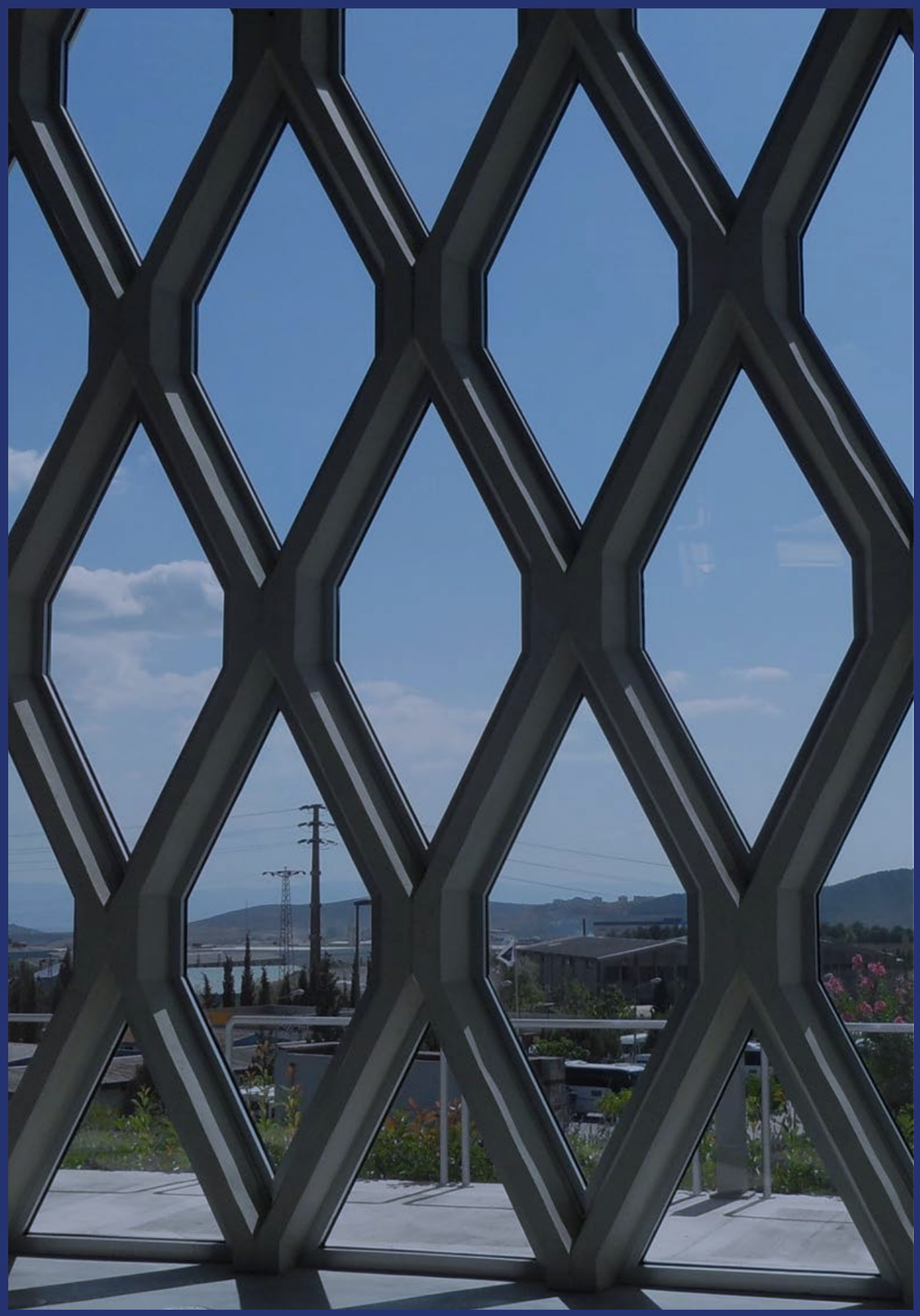


Figure 2. Greenhouse gas emissions for the academic year 2023-2024 (metric tons CO2e)



4

Risk and Opportunity Management

Governance of Climate-Related Risks and Opportunities

Consistent with our vision of building a sustainable future, Sabancı University takes a systematic approach to address the risks and opportunities related to climate change, focusing on increasing climate resilience and strengthening adaptation processes.

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report 2025 reveals that the biggest threats the world will face in the coming years are environmental risks such as extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem collapse. Accordingly, we shape our risk management strategies by accounting for global threats and take proactive steps to contribute to a sustainable future.

Through strategies developed with our academic know-how, research capacity, and stakeholder collaborations, we aim to create a structure that is resilient to the challenges posed by climate change and ensure long-term sustainability. In this context, by integrating risk and opportunity management into our institutional processes, we effectively manage uncertainties that may arise while pursuing our strategic sustainability goals and make the most of emerging opportunities.

Our risks and opportunities related to climate change are identified in line with our ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 14064 management systems, climate scenario analyses, and global risk assessment standards. This assessment process includes a comprehensive adaptation strategy that not only identifies existing risks but also includes actions to be taken to counter risks.

Sabancı University integrates risk and opportunity management into its quality assurance system and monitors it through systematic reviews and reporting. This process ensures that risks are assessed not only for their academic and operational impacts but also for their financial impacts. Accordingly, in collaboration with the finance team, the impact of risks and opportunities on the budget and investment decisions are analyzed, and decisions are made by considering long-term financial sustainability.

Climate Change Risks

At Sabancı University, our physical and transition risks related to climate change are listed in Table 1 and Table 2.

Risk Type	Category	Explanation of Risk
Physical Risk	Acute Physical	Extreme weather events, such as storms, extreme heat, fire, drought and increased rainfall, can cause operational disruptions.
		Disruptions in the supply chain can lead to delays in logistical processes, resulting in increased operational costs.
		Disruption to the university's critical services could threaten operational continuity and lead to disruptions in teaching, research, and campus management activities.
	Chronic Physical	Insurance companies may set higher risk premiums due to extreme weather events, natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
		According to the WRI water analysis, Sabancı University is located in a high water risk area for water. Water scarcity and diminishing water resources at the campus location can lead to operational challenges such as cooling systems and negatively impact teaching and research processes.
		A decline in energy and water resources could increase university costs and disrupt education and research.
		Extreme weather events may have negative impacts on the ecosystem and biodiversity around the campus.
		Extreme climate events can threaten the physical conduct and financial sustainability of research projects.

Table 1. Climate Change Physical Risks

Risk Type	Category	Explanation of Risk
Transition Risks	Policy and Legal	Financial and administrative obligations to comply with domestic and international climate policies may increase.
	Technology	Regulatory pressure to report and reduce carbon emissions may increase. While this situation necessitates the transition to carbon-reducing technologies, failure to achieve the necessary transformation may lead to financial, operational, and reputational risks.
	Market	Inadequate climate-related efforts can lead to reduced interest from funders and partners, negatively impacting access to financial resources and collaborations.
	Reputation	Failure to allocate sufficient financial resources for sustainability investments may cause delays in achieving environmental targets reducing carbon emissions, thus posing risks to regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and institutional reputation.
		A university that takes insufficient steps to tackle climate change may suffer reputational damage and face negative impacts on student preferences, partnerships, and fundraising.

Table 2. Climate Change Transition Risks

As of the reporting year, Sabancı University has assessed the financial impacts of physical and transition risks associated with climate change. In the medium term, a total physical risk impact of 84,800,000 TRY is projected, including 82,600,000 TRY for the repair of damage to capital assets due to increased rainfall and 2,200,000 TRY for the restoration of landscape areas damaged by vegetation loss.

Additionally, the financial impact of transition risks associated with compliance with the Türkiye Emissions Trading System (ETS), which is expected to come into effect in the short term, has also been assessed. Based on our Scope 1 emissions of 7,300 tons of CO_2/year as of the reporting year and an assumed carbon price of 90 USD per ton, the financial impact that could arise if 100% cost reflection is applied has been calculated as 657,000 USD. This analysis on the financial impact of risks contributes to a data-driven approach to the University's budget planning, operational resilience, and investment prioritization processes; it also contributes to the shaping of long-term financial sustainability and climate transition strategies.

Climate Change Opportunities

A detailed list of our opportunities related to climate change is presented in Table 3.

Type	Opportunity Related to Climate	Potential Financial Impacts	Potential Non-Financial Benefits
Resource Efficiency	Reducing and compensating for environmental impact through energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy projects	Reduced operating costs, savings on energy and water bills	Contribution to environmental sustainability, increased awareness within the organization
Reputation	Enhanced university reputation and increased student enrollment through strategies to reduce carbon emissions	Ensure financial balance through donations and revenues	Strengthening institutional reputation, increasing student and employee loyalty
Products and Services	Access to national and international funding for projects related to climate change	Contribution to the budget through grants and support from funds	Development of research capacity, national and international visibility
Market	Opportunities to develop innovative technologies and solutions through joint projects with companies	Financial gain from projects and partnerships that can be commercialized	Industry partnerships, knowledge sharing and development of a culture of innovation

Table 3. Climate Change Opportunities

5

Climate Targets

Climate Targets

At Sabancı University, we are aware that we need to take urgent and effective steps to combat climate change. To limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, we assume the responsibility to reduce our emissions in accordance with the SBTi. Accordingly, we adopt a comprehensive approach to manage our direct (Scope 1), indirect energy (Scope 2), and other indirect (Scope 3) emissions, accounting for all the emission sources of our university.

As stated in the IPCC's global warming report, emissions must be reduced by 40-50% by 2030. In line with this goal, we have set ambitious targets to reduce emissions from our university campus. In addition to reducing emissions under our direct control, we aim to achieve reductions in indirect emission sources such as business travel, supply chain, transportation, and waste management. Table 5 presents our current status, 2030 short-term and 2050 long-term climate targets compared to the base year 2021-2022.

	Current status (2023-2024)	2030 short-term target	2050 long-term target
Scope 1 and 2	-31.4%	-42%	-100%
Scope 3	+11.9%	-25%	-100%

Table 5. Science-based Climate Targets

Our long-term emission reduction targets will be subject to a comprehensive review in 2030, and our roadmap for achieving the targets will be re-evaluated in this process. This action plan will enable our university to move forward with determination towards its sustainability goals and will be carried out in partnership with all our stakeholders.

We recognize that achieving absolute zero emissions by 2050 will be challenging, so we foresee the need to offset unavoidable emissions to achieve net zero. However, our priority is to minimize the need for offsetting by reducing our emissions to the maximum level with our emission reduction strategies.

At the same time, through our climate and sustainability action plan, we aim to not just minimize our negative impacts but also increase our positive impacts. Through research, education, and partnerships, we aim to contribute to developing sustainable solutions and further engage our university community in climate action.

Sabancı University has decided to accelerate its carbon neutrality targets and take more effective steps to combat climate change by joining the United Nations-led 'Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges' commitment in 2025. Ambitious new targets have been set in this context:

CO_2

We are committed to reducing our **Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 42%** and **Scope 3 emissions by 25%** by 2030, compared to the base year 2021-2022.

NET ZERO 2050

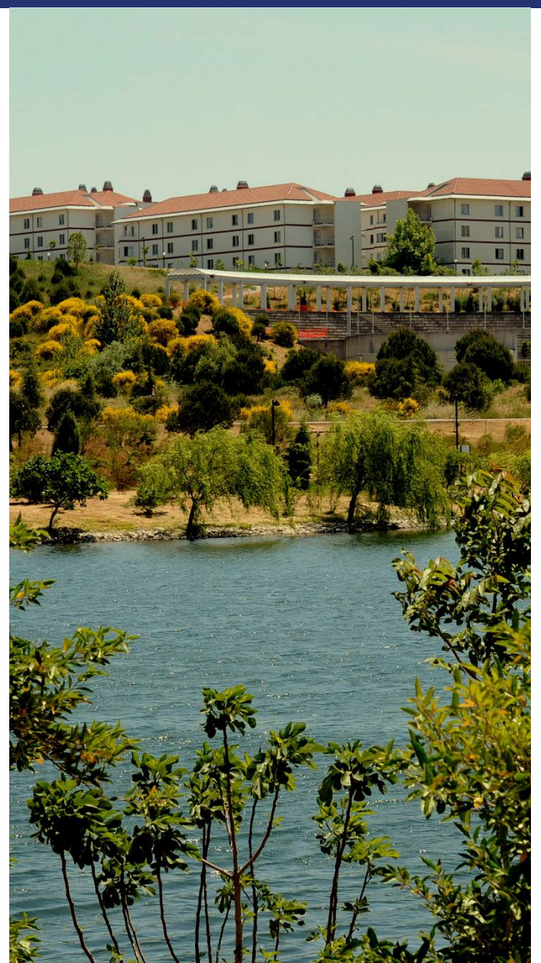
By 2050, **we aim to be a net-zero emission campus.**

6

Implementing Net-Zero Strategies on Campus

Implementing Net-Zero Strategies on Campus

Creating effective and lasting solutions to combat climate change requires taking visible and decisive steps. At Sabancı University, we are taking comprehensive measures across our campus to reduce our carbon emissions. In line with our net-zero emission target, we maintain our commitment to continuously improve our environmental management system performance in partnership with all our stakeholders. You can access these commitments and our basic principles through the **Sabancı University Environmental Policy**.



Despite the growth of our university, we managed to achieve a significant reduction in our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in the 2023-2024 academic year compared to the base year. This was achieved due to strategies to optimize energy consumption, make the most efficient use of available space, and integrate renewable energy sources.

In line with our 2050 net-zero goal, we are creating a comprehensive roadmap that will guide our financial and operational transformation to create a carbon neutral campus. In this process, we focus our investments on low-carbon solutions, implement sustainable finance mechanisms, and take decisive steps to achieve our emission reduction targets together with all our stakeholders.

Energy Management and Renewable Energy

To achieve our emission reduction targets, we have prioritized improving the efficiency of our campus' energy management and reducing carbon emissions. To this end, we first analyze our current situation, evaluate the annual changes in our energy consumption, and determine our strategic actions in line with this data. Figure 3 shows the annual change in energy consumption based on sources.

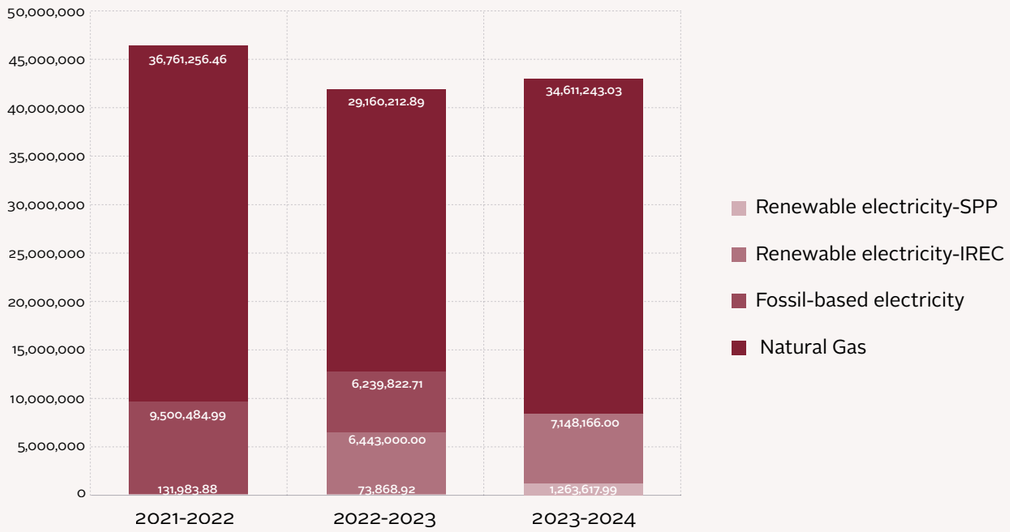


Figure 3. Annual Change in Energy Consumption by Source

In the 2022-2023 academic year, renewable energy certificates (I-REC) were acquired for the first time, and in the 2023-2024 academic year, our campus' entire electricity needs were fully met from renewable sources through a 1,100 kWe solar power plant and renewable energy certificates. **As a result, our Scope 2 market-based emissions have been reduced to zero.**

To achieve our carbon reduction targets, we aim to improve the efficiency of our campus energy management and integrate carbon reduction into all our processes. The actions taken in this regard are listed below.

- Ensuring 100% renewable energy supply
- Expanding LED lighting
- Introducing motion sensors and energy saving systems
- Installing electric vehicle charging stations
- Revising ventilation automation systems
- Preventing heat losses through facility insulation
- Installing a rooftop solar energy system (SPP)
- Increasing efficiency by modernizing boiler systems
- Preferring products with high energy efficiency in procurement processes

Through energy efficiency and process improvements, approximately **2,300 MWh** of energy savings and 1,216 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent emission reductions were achieved in the reporting year.

A large portion of our energy consumption comes from natural gas used in heating systems and cogeneration facilities. To reduce our campus' carbon emissions, we aim to develop long-term heating-related decarbonization strategies and to integrate these strategies into our university's decision-making and planning processes. Accordingly, we will continue to increase the use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.

2030 Targets and Planned Strategic Actions

- Carbon pricing mechanisms will be assessed.
- Floating solar power plants and vertical solar energy systems will be installed.
- Burner air-fuel ratio will be optimized in boiler systems.
- Economizer systems will be integrated into heating operations.
- Losses in air conditioning systems will be addressed.
- Transformer coupling practices and facility insulation will be improved.
- Green hydrogen technologies will be closely monitored and opportunities will be assessed.
- Energy management will be systematized and based on continuous improvement by complying with the ISO 50001 Energy Management System standard.
- Energy management will be strengthened throughout the campus with practices such as building insulation, system automation, and smart building management solutions.

2050 Targets and Planned Strategic Actions

- Heat pumps, next-generation chiller systems, and alternative refrigerants will be used.
- Fossil fuel use will be reduced through furnace/boiler electrification.
- The university's energy infrastructure will be transformed into fully integrated low-carbon systems.
- Carbon offset projects will be implemented to contribute to our 2050 target.
- Smart building systems will be expanded.

At Sabancı University, our energy management and carbon reduction efforts are an important step towards achieving our sustainability goals. With our renewable energy investments, energy efficiency projects, and long-term strategies, we aim to carry our campus to a more sustainable future.

Waste Management and Circular Economy Practices

Sabancı University implements the Zero Waste Management System on its campus to achieve its sustainability goals. Special collection points for recyclable, organic, and non-recyclable waste have been set up in each building and on each floor to separate waste at its source. Proper waste separation is ensured through campus-wide training and information campaigns. With this system to reduce to the amount of waste, we aim to reduce carbon emissions and minimize our environmental impact. Sabancı University demonstrates its commitment to environmentally friendly practices with the Basic Level "Zero Waste" Certificate.

The annual change in waste amounts based on disposal method is shown in Figure 4. Compared to 2020-2021, our amount of waste was reduced by 42% in the 2021-2022 academic year, 60% in the 2022-2023 academic year and 65% in the reporting year. In the reporting year, 30% of our waste was recycled while 70% was sent to landfill.

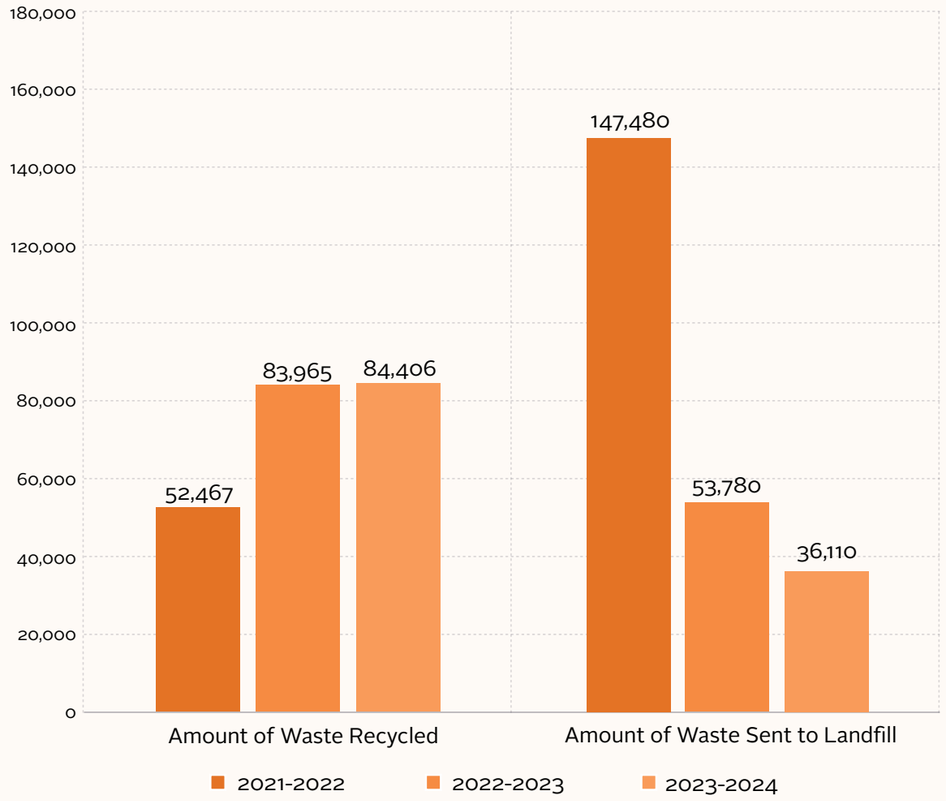


Figure 4. Annual Change by Waste Disposal Method

Sabancı University continues to promote a circular campus model through both operational practices and awareness-raising activities that encourage student participation to achieve its sustainable campus goals. We implement various strategies to separate waste at its source and prevent unnecessary consumption across the campus.

In line with our circular economy strategy, we focus on increasing resource efficiency in material consumption in both our existing operations and new investments. By moving away from landfill and incineration methods in waste management, we aim to reach the Zero Waste target by 2050. Accordingly, we prioritize increasing resource efficiency in our operations and future investments, and we aim to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly campus model.

2030 Targets and Planned Strategic Actions

- Recycle 40% of total waste
- Implement circular economy initiatives

2050 Targets and Planned Strategic Actions

- Complete elimination of single-use products
- Use of recyclable materials and composting of organic waste
- Offsetting emissions

Water Management

On the Sabancı University campus, within the scope of water reuse and recycling, efforts are carried out with a sustainability perspective. According to the WRI Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, the university is located in a region with high water stress. Therefore, the university recognizes its responsibility to reduce water use and use water efficiently. SU has an effective water management system to ensure sustainable use of water on its campuses.

There is an artificial water pond on our campus, which is used to collect rainwater. The water extracted from this artificial pond is used for irrigation in the summer months. The infrastructure systems of the buildings on our campus have separate sewage systems for wastewater and clean water (rainwater). Rainwater is collected from the roofs of the buildings and directed through pipelines to the artificial pond and stored there. Water is recycled in cooling and water treatment systems.

The annual change in the amount of water extracted from the municipal water supply, water consumed, and water discharged for our current activities is shared in Table 6. In the reporting year, compared to the 2021-2022 academic year, the amount of water extracted and discharged increased by 17%, while **the amount of water consumed decreased by 47%.**

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Water Extracted - Municipal Water Supply, m^3	153,515	173,911	179,866
Rainwater, m^3	55,823	60,846	19,820
Water Consumed, m^3	71,174	78,238	37,807
Water Discharged, m^3	138,164	156,520	161,879

Table 6. Annual Change in the Amounts of Water Extracted, Consumed, and Discharged

Measures currently implemented on our campus:

- Water-saving devices are used in buildings and infrastructures on campus to save water.
- Water-saving fixtures are preferred for sinks and faucets.
- As part of efforts to reduce water consumption, sprinkler and drip irrigation methods are used in campus landscaping.
- Work is being carried out to select plants that require less water.

2030 Targets and Planned Strategic Actions

- The establishment of a Water Footprint Management System is planned in accordance with the ISO 14046 standard.

2050 Targets and Planned Strategic Actions

- By 2050, the amount of water recycled is targeted to increase by 30%.

Sustainable Procurement

At Sabancı University, we see sustainable procurement processes as a critical component of our strategy to reduce our carbon footprint. According to our university's emission inventory, the source of emissions with the highest impact is purchased goods and services. Therefore, we are working to reshape our supply chain processes according to environmental and social sustainability criteria.

Effectively managing emissions from procurement processes not only reduces our carbon footprint but also enables us to collaborate with our suppliers to promote sustainable production and consumption habits. As of the 2020-2021 academic year, a budget has been allocated for sustainable procurement processes, and annual sustainable spending rates are regularly monitored. In the reporting year, the ratio of sustainability expenditures in the total budget was 3.41%.

Medium-term targets include:

- Establishing low-carbon supply chains,
- Increasing partnerships with local and environmentally friendly producers, and
- Gradually increasing the budget allocated to sustainable products.

Our current Procurement Policy integrates sustainability principles into our procurement processes. However, we need to take further steps to achieve our environmental and social goals.

- To accelerate our transition to a fully sustainable, ethical and low-carbon supply chain, a comprehensive evaluation system will be established to analyze the environmental impact of our suppliers, and suppliers that commit to reducing their carbon footprint will be prioritized.

Long-term targets include:

- Our procurement processes will be further developed with a circular economy approach to optimize resource use, extend the life cycle of products, and reduce the amount of waste.
- In line with our net-zero supply chain target, we aim to increase the sourcing of products and services from carbon neutral certified companies.

At Sabancı University, we are committed to minimizing our environmental impact and contributing to our long-term carbon reduction targets by promoting innovative, sustainable solutions in our procurement processes.

Sustainable Transportation

At Sabancı University, we are implementing various actions to reduce transportation-related emissions and make on-campus mobility more sustainable. According to emission analyses, approximately 25% of our total greenhouse gas emissions are caused by business trips, employee shuttles, and shuttle services provided to students for end-of-term transportation.

Business Trip

Sabancı University continues to pursue its vision of becoming a university with a global impact through international academic partnerships, exchange programs, and research conducted on a global scale. Our educational quality and scientific productivity are enhanced by our university's involvement in international partnerships and conferences, as well as global experience through student exchange programs. However, one of our priorities is to consider the impact of these international activities on travel-related emissions and to adopt a responsible approach in order to reduce our carbon footprint.

Sabancı University encourages the use of digital alternatives to reduce carbon emissions from international travel. The pandemic has shown that academic partnerships and conference participation can be effectively sustained through online platforms. Accordingly, we aim to minimize the environmental impact of our events by offering digital solutions to replace non-essential travel. As part of our sustainable travel policy, we implement practices to reduce carbon emissions.

- The necessity of travel abroad will be reviewed, and online participation options will be prioritized where possible.
- Train or other low-carbon transportation options will be encouraged instead of air travel when traveling to nearby destinations.
- To compensate for the carbon impact of international travel, efforts will be made to offset emissions in line with Sabancı University's sustainability commitment.
- All employees and students will be informed about sustainable transportation alternatives.

Employee Shuttles, Student Shuttles, and Campus Ring Vehicles

As part of its goal to reduce transportation emissions, Sabancı University encourages sustainable transportation alternatives and supports on-campus mobility with low-carbon solutions. Accordingly, 137 shuttle services are organized daily, and a total of 90 vehicles provide transportation services. Ring vehicles serve free of charge at certain hours on campus, facilitating internal transportation and reducing the use of individual motor vehicles.

137 Shuttle Services

90 Vehicles

- The university has offset emissions from employee shuttles, student shuttles, and ring vehicles.
- The technical services unit uses electric bicycles for on-campus transportation, which is an environmentally friendly practice.

Within the scope of our sustainable transportation policy, our material targets include the conversion of the campus vehicle fleet to electric models and the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In line with our near and long-term climate goals:

- By 2035, at least 10% of students will be able to reach the university by public transportation.
- A Campus Transportation and Accessibility Plan will be developed.
- A vehicle sharing system will be implemented.
- Electric employee shuttle services will be introduced.
- Unavoidable emissions will be offset by investing in environmental projects.

International Student Travel

Increased student mobility on a global scale has a significant impact on the carbon footprint of universities. In the case of Sabancı University, **23%** of our total emissions come from international student travel during the academic year. Therefore, we adopt a data-driven approach to better understand the emissions associated with student mobility and integrate these emissions into sustainability strategies.

- Regular surveys will be conducted, and travel habits will be analyzed in detail to develop strategies for reducing students' travel-related emissions.
- Based on the data obtained, awareness-raising activities on low-carbon transportation alternatives will be organized, and students will be informed about sustainable transportation options.

In line with our long-term goals, a comprehensive sustainable transportation strategy will be developed to minimize the transportation-related emissions of students and staff and to reshape on-campus mobility with environmentally friendly alternatives. In this context:

- Alternative solutions will be offered to reduce carbon emissions in travel, carbon offset mechanisms will be introduced where possible, and low-carbon transportation models will be encouraged.

Sabancı University is committed to minimizing the carbon footprint of travel and contributing to the campus ecosystem by strengthening its sustainable transportation policies.

Sustainable Food

Food production accounts for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions. We therefore have a responsibility to offer and promote sustainable, low-carbon diets through our dining hall and catering operations.

To ensure the purchase and use of safe and sustainable food on campus, our food operations are monitored through strict procedures and quality audits. In line with our net-zero supply chain target, we aim to increase the supply of products and services from carbon neutral certified companies.

Biodiversity

Sabancı University is located in the Tuzla district of Istanbul, in an area with high biodiversity risk according to the WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter. The intense pressure of industrialization and urbanization in the region increases the risk of a loss of functionality of the surrounding ecosystems.

In contrast to this pressure, Sabancı University offers a sustainable campus model that supports natural life amid urbanization with its large forest area, natural landscape, and practices to protect biodiversity.

Our campus harbors an important ecosystem with 702,000 m^2 of forest area and is home to a wide range of biodiversity, including 100 native species, 150 newly planted species, and more than 350 subspecies. More than 100,000 trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants have been planted on the university grounds, and the natural landscape of the campus has been enriched with more than 1,000 Sakura trees.

While these natural areas provide vital habitats for many plant and animal species, they also serve as an important carbon sink in the fight against climate change. According to calculations, 637.5 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent emissions were removed from the atmosphere by this forest structure.

The aim is to protect and enhance biodiversity through actions to be taken in the medium and long term. Our material targets include:

- **The protection of ecosystems within the campus,**
- **The reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use,**
- **A preference for plant species that consume less water,**
- **Sustainable landscape management, and**
- **Practices that support natural life.**

Sustainable Education

Our university plays an important role in sustainability and the fight against the climate crisis through education and research. The university aims to equip its students with the knowledge and skills to contribute to the sustainable development goals and to support them in taking an active role in the fair transition to a low-carbon future. In this context, sustainability-themed courses and programs are offered, research projects are supported, and the focus on sustainability is strengthened in academic publications.

The university aims to continuously improve its academic contribution in the field of sustainability and climate by monitoring performance indicators such as number of publications, number of projects, amount of funding, course diversity, and awareness activities, and it contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, in line with SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, we develop collaborations with multi-stakeholder platforms and contribute to global knowledge sharing through international academic projects. In this context, sustainability-oriented academic productivity is monitored through an SDG analysis of publications, and Sabancı University's global sustainability performance is strengthened by identifying areas for improvement.

Sabancı University Centers and Forums for Sustainability-Oriented Research and Societal Impact Activities

Sabancı University is strengthening its academic work, research projects, and practical solutions in the field of sustainability with the goal of creating "Sustainable Centers." The forums and research centers operating within the university are key actors in this collaborative structure. These centers operate across a wide spectrum including energy transition, circular economy, green finance, gender equality, data analytics, and advanced manufacturing technologies, aiming to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Sabancı University centers develop collaborations with industry, the public sector, and international academic institutions to produce sustainability-focused innovative projects and aim to create societal impact.

You can access detailed information about the Centers and Forums within Sabancı University here.

Istanbul Policy Center (IPC)

İPM | IPC
İSTANBUL POLİTİKALAR MERKEZİ
SABANCI ÜNİVERSİTESİ
ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER
SABANCI UNIVERSITY

Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) is an independent policy research institute conducting studies across a wide range of areas, from democratization to climate change, and from energy transition to conflict analysis and resolution. Operating at a global scale, IPC provides policymakers, opinion leaders, and stakeholders with impartial analyses and innovative policy recommendations.

Operating under six main themes, IPC conducts academic and applied research in areas including the IPC–Sabancı University–Stiftung Mercator Initiative, Climate Change, Democratization and Institutional Reform, SHURA Energy Transition Center, Urbanization and Local Governance, and Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Living Together. Since 2001, it has contributed to public policy through science-based research and developed solution-oriented projects in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

You can access all event and publication records through the IPC website and online platforms.

Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence (SU Gender)

SU GENDER SABANCI UNIVERSITY GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence (SU Gender) operates with the aim of conducting research, raising awareness, and supporting institutional transformation in the field of gender equality. Officially established in 2015, the center promotes gender equality through education, activism, and academic work.

Through the Purple Certificate Program, the center offers gender-focused training to teachers and aims to make visible social memory on women's and LGBTI+ history through the Gendered Memories Walks. It also supports activists through the Transformative Activism Program and develops mechanisms that strengthen gender equality at the institutional level under the Gender Equality Program. The Dicle Koğacıoğlu Article Award is held annually and supports young researchers.

As an institution that prioritizes gender equality both at the level of research centers and academic principles, Sabancı University developed its Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) within the scope of the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme project GEARING-Roles (2019–2022), and made it ready for implementation in 2021. This plan aims to reflect the institution's commitment to gender equality across the entire academic and administrative structure.

By integrating gender equality with the Sustainable Development Goals, SU Gender aims to create an inclusive transformation at both academic and societal levels; the initiatives carried out in this area contribute to the university's sustainability vision and play a key role in building an equality-based social structure and a just future.

For more information, you can visit the SU Gender website.

Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC)

IICEC SABANCI UNIVERSITY ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC) operates as an independent, interdisciplinary research and policy center focusing on sustainable energy and climate policies. It conducts scientific research on topics such as energy transition, renewable energy, sustainable financing, and net-zero emission targets, and supports collaboration among industry, academia, and the public sector.

Providing objective and data-driven analyses on key challenges in the fields of energy and climate, IICEC serves as a platform for knowledge and collaboration for decision-makers, academics, and industry representatives at both regional and global levels. IICEC Conferences address the relationship between business and sustainable energy, bringing together industry leaders and policymakers and encouraging the exchange of ideas.

Leveraging Türkiye's strategic location, IICEC engages directly with energy markets in Europe and Asia, contributing to the development of sustainable energy solutions through global collaborations and comprehensive publications.

Within the center, activities such as the IICEC Energy Outlook studies, Industry-Focused Special Research Projects, and the IICEC Energy and Climate Research Review are also carried out. These studies provide in-depth analyses of key findings from selected research on various aspects of global and regional energy and climate issues.

You can visit the IICEC website to learn more.

Corporate Governance Forum (CGF)

Sabancı Üniversitesi CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FORUM OF TURKEY

The Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum (CGF) is an interdisciplinary platform established in 2003 through a partnership between Sabancı University and TÜSİAD, operating under the Faculty of Management at Sabancı University. The Forum's main objective is to promote corporate governance principles and contribute to structuring companies, investors, and the business world in a more transparent, equitable, and accountable manner in line with sustainable development goals.

In 2009, CGF identified climate change as one of the most critical threats to sustainable development and began conducting strategic work in this area. In this context, it launched a collaboration with CDP (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project), one of the world's most respected sustainability reporting platforms, and has played a pioneering role in encouraging companies to transparently report nature-related risks and opportunities such as climate change, water resources, and forests. As of 2024, CGF has further deepened its engagement with the private sector through advanced environmental and nature reporting formats that cover all components of nature.

The Forum also carries out significant work in the field of gender equality. Key initiatives in this area include the Independent Women Directors Project, which aims to increase female representation in corporate governance structures; the Business Against Domestic Violence (BADV) Project, which aims to prevent gender-based violence in the workplace; and the Business Against Domestic Violence Companies Network. CGF also led the establishment of the 30% Club Turkey campaign, which targets a minimum of 30% female representation on company boards.

Focusing on the relationship between corporate governance and sustainability, the Forum guides companies in aligning their operations with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and develops policy recommendations. Through all these efforts, CGF continues to contribute to the development of a sustainable and inclusive business environment in Türkiye.

Under the umbrella of CGF and in collaboration with CDP, major initiatives such as the Independent Women Directors Project, the 30% Club Turkey campaign, the Business Against Domestic Violence (BADV) Project, and the Business Against Domestic Violence Companies Network are carried out in.

For more information, please visit the CGF website.

Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center (SUNUM)

SUNUM SABANCI UNIVERSITY NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND APPLICATION CENTER

SUNUM is a center of excellence focused on interdisciplinary research, aiming to become a global platform that creates value by integrating nanoscience and nanotechnology. The Center conducts impactful research programs in areas such as advanced materials, nano-biotechnology and nano-pharmaceuticals, nano-electronics and nano-optics, micro/nanofluidics, micro/nano-electromechanical systems, and renewable energy systems.

Research topics are determined in line with regional and sectoral needs, national technology and economic policies, and common areas of interest in the global science and technology landscape. With the vision of becoming a leading reference center in nanotechnology, SUNUM continues to develop innovative solutions by building bridges between science and industry.

For more information, you can visit the SUNUM website.

Sabancı University Data Analytics Research and Application Center (VERIM)

VERİM SABANCI ÜNİVERSİTESİ VERİ ANALİTİĞİ ARAŞTIRMA VE UYGULAMA MERKEZİ

VERIM was established in 2016 to conduct interdisciplinary research in the field of data science and to enable institutions to generate value from data. By leveraging big data and artificial intelligence technologies, it offers data-driven solutions in areas such as sustainability, energy management, and environmental impact analysis.

The Center also integrates its education and research activities through the Non-Thesis Master's Program in Data Analytics and the Thesis Master's Program in Data Science at Sabancı University, supporting the development of a new generation of researchers specializing in data analytics and artificial intelligence.

You can visit the VERIM website to learn more.

Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF)

The Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF) was established by Sabancı University, which holds AACSB accreditation, one of the world's most prestigious accreditations, and ranks first in Türkiye in the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings, to build bridges between academia, the financial sector, and the real sector.

CEF aims to bring together academics, financial market actors, and investors to transform theoretical knowledge into practical solutions and models applicable in the real world. The Center's Advisory Board is composed of internationally recognized figures from academia, the private sector, and policymaking circles, and this structure strengthens the Center's strategic multi-stakeholder approach.

Among CEF's areas of focus, sustainable finance, green investments, and carbon markets hold significant importance. The Center supports the alignment of the financial sector with environmental sustainability principles and, in this context, develops scientific analyses, research, and policy recommendations in the field of climate finance.

You can visit the CEF website to learn more.

Research and Application Center for Functional Surfaces and Interfaces for Advanced Diagnostics (EFSUN)

EFSUN aims to develop solutions to scientific and technological challenges in functional surfaces and interfaces by conducting interdisciplinary research in the fields of medicine, molecular biology, materials science, nanotechnology, and micro/nanofluidics.

The Center carries out innovative research in areas such as disease genetics, biochemistry, surface and interface interactions, clinical collaborations, and targeted device design, offering sustainable solutions focused on biomedical and materials science. Bringing together expert researchers from around the world, EFSUN operates as a center of excellence aiming to contribute to science and technology through interdisciplinary collaboration.

You can visit the website to learn more about EFSUN.

Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center

Sabancı University Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SU IMC) is an industrial-scale research and technology development center operating within Teknopark Istanbul, Türkiye's largest thematic technopark.

The Center provides design, manufacturing, assembly, and process prototyping services in the fields of composite materials and advanced manufacturing technologies. It also offers training and consultancy support to public and industrial institutions within the scope of material and product development, laboratory testing, prototype production, design-simulation, and R&D services.

With its structure that strengthens university-industry collaboration, SU IMC offers end-to-end integrated solutions from design to production and aims to enhance Türkiye's competitiveness in the field of advanced manufacturing technologies.

To learn more, you can visit the SU IMC website.

TÜSİAD – Sabancı University Competitiveness Forum (REF)

The TÜSİAD–Sabancı University Competitiveness Forum (REF) was established in 2003 through a cooperation agreement signed between the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) and Sabancı University. REF conducts research in the areas of innovation, technology management, benchmarking, and sustainability to enhance the competitiveness of Turkish industry, and develops data-driven analyses and policy recommendations in these fields.

In addition, it prepares reports on current issues such as the state of Turkish industry, combating climate change, and compliance with ESG standards, and shares them with the public, the business world, and policymakers.

More information can be found at the REF website.

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From Planning to Implementation: Climate Action at Sabancı University

From Planning to Implementation: Climate Action at Sabancı University

At Sabancı University, we have established a strong governance structure to realize our climate commitments. This structure is adopted at the senior management level and supported by the Sustainability Office and Sustainability Partners. Effective implementation of the plan requires a multidimensional approach that includes campus investments, resources allocated to specific areas, policy changes, and transformations in our working models.

Climate and sustainability efforts are integrated into all units of Sabancı University, and the process is coordinated by the Sustainability Office. The Sustainability Office is responsible for providing a mechanism for oversight, advocacy, and accountability at all stages of the Climate Action Plan.

The targets and activities in the action plan will be reviewed annually and updated when necessary to align with global and national developments and the latest reporting requirements. Within this framework, our sustainability performance indicators (KPIs) will be regularly monitored together with our interim and final targets, and the results will be transparently shared with all stakeholders.

The Sabancı University community, together with students, academic and administrative staff, and student clubs, will continue to be an active part of this process and strengthen the accountability of our university through our sustainability platforms. Together, we are committed to building a future that respects people and the planet, both on our campus and in our broader ecosystem, by developing innovative solutions.

Sabancı Üniversitesi

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