



## **SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION**

Times Higher Education (THE), an international ranking organization, lists universities that demonstrate measurable impact in the field of “Climate Action” under the SDG 13 label. Üsküdar University has been recognized and ranked for its work in this area. SDG 13 – Climate Action is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Its aim is “to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

Üsküdar University is aware of its responsibilities regarding environmental sustainability and gives importance to all necessary arrangements to contribute to solutions. As Üsküdar University, we carry out research, education, advocacy, and sustainable practices that address climate change and its impacts, and we believe that these efforts will contribute to a more sustainable future for our planet.

### **13.2 – Low-Carbon Energy**

#### **13.2.1 - Does your university as a body measure the amount of low carbon energy used across the university?**

Our university calculates and regularly reports its total carbon footprint in accordance with Greenhouse Gas Protocols. This calculation is detailed in our report for the 2023-2024 academic year. This demonstrates the transparent determination of our current emissions status, the first step in our journey to carbon neutrality. The Üsküdar University Environmental Report demonstrates that the amount of low-carbon energy is measured. Section 2.4 of the report, “Total Carbon Footprint,” clearly states that the university calculated its carbon footprint based on natural gas use, vehicle fuel consumption, and total number of people:

- Natural gas use: 2,579,293 m<sup>3</sup>
- Vehicle fuel use: 79,874 L
- Total number of people: 15,494 people
- Direct carbon footprint: 8,813 metric tons
- Per capita carbon footprint: 0.35 metric tons

The calculation was made using the carbon calculation tools in the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) system.

#### **13.2.2 – Energy Use**

**13.2.2.1 - Total energy used:** 27.396 GJ

**13.2.2.2 - Total energy used from low-carbon sources:** 1.414 GJ

### **13.3 – Environmental Education Measures**

**13.3.1 - Does your university as a body provide local education programmes or campaigns on climate change risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning?**



Üsküdar University runs local education programmes and awareness campaigns on climate change risks, impacts, mitigation and adaptation through both curriculum integration and social contribution programmes. The university's certificate programmes, symposiums, academic research groups and social innovation projects contribute to raising climate awareness and spreading a culture of sustainable living.

- In recent years, courses addressing climate-related issues have been incorporated into the curricula of various departments at our university. This prepares students to advocate for sustainable practices and equips them with the knowledge necessary to support affected communities. Furthermore, they are encouraged to develop preventive and adaptation strategies to mitigate risks associated with changing environmental conditions.
- - Climate Change and Health: This course examines the effects of climate change on health. <https://cdn.uskudar.edu.tr/uploads/files/2023/07/14/2023-2024-hemsirelik-bolumu-mufredati.pdf>
- - Environmental Policies and Legislation: This course focuses on environmental management and policies. <https://cdn.uskudar.edu.tr/uploads/files/2024/08/16/cevre-sagligi-2024-2025-mufredati.pdf>
- Air Pollution and Control: This course covers air pollution-related problems and control methods. <https://cdn.uskudar.edu.tr/uploads/files/2020/07/22/cevre-sagligi-2020-2021-mufredati.pdf>
- Climate topics are discussed in Nursing and Midwifery curricula: <https://sis.uskudar.edu.tr/oibs/bologna/index.aspx?lang=tr&curOp=showPac&curUnit=03&curSunit=1019#>  
<https://sis.uskudar.edu.tr/oibs/bologna/index.aspx?lang=tr&curOp=showPac&curUnit=03&curSunit=18#>
- Technological disasters and environmental issues are covered in the Emergency and Disaster Management programme: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/1/file/acil-durum-ve-afet-yonetimi-tanitim-brosuru-20252.pdf>

Additional examples of awareness and education activities include:

1) The meeting held at Boston University examined how faith-based values can contribute to combating climate change at the institutional and societal levels. The event aimed to establish an interdisciplinary research agenda and discussed new opportunities for collaboration at the intersection of religion, ethics and public policy. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir (Üsküdar University) contributed by linking Islamic thought's ecological ethical heritage to the global climate struggle. <https://www.bu.edu/pardee/2024/09/21/upcoming-event-faith-and-climate-change-towards-a-research-agenda/>



2) The “Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Certificate Programme” organised by Üsküdar University Continuing Education Centre (ÜSEM) provides participants with up-to-date information and practical solutions to address the climate crisis, including topics such as climate policies, carbon footprint reduction, and sustainable strategies.  
<https://usem.uskudar.edu.tr/egitim/3-donem-iklim-degisikligi-ve-cevresel-surdurulebilirlik-sertifika-programi>

3) Social innovation projects for sustainability and climate awareness are organised under the university’s social contribution strategies.  
<https://toplumsalkatki.uskudaruniversitesi.edu.tr/sosyal-inavasyon-projeleri>

4) Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir’s article examines climate denial and conspiracy theories and underlines the importance of critical thinking and scientific evidence.  
<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iklim-inkarcilari-iklim-degisikligi-aslinda-bir-komple-mu/44813>

5) Scientific outreach and awareness items on biodiversity, animals, and ecosystem impacts:  
<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iklim-degisikligi-biyocesitiligi-azaltiyor/57457>  
<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iklim-degisikligi-hayvanlarin-yasamini-ve-ekosistemleri-tehdit-ediyor/57578>

6) Children and Climate research initiatives:  
<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/ebeler-iklim-krizi-cozumunde-onemli-bir-guc/47858>

### **13.3.2 - Does your university as a body have a university Climate Action plan, shared with local government and/or local community groups?**

Üsküdar University operates with a strong sense of social responsibility and sensitivity toward the environment and sustainability. Although the institution has not yet published an independent “Climate Action Plan,” policies, objectives, and structural arrangements that support climate action have been established within the framework of its Strategic Plan and Sustainability Coordination Directive.

#### **Sustainability within the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan**

- Mission: “To educate individuals with high awareness of environmental and social issues who serve society based on the principle of sustainability.”
- Core Values: Respect for nature and the environment, sustainable development, and contribution to society.
- Objective 6 / Target 6.3: Efficient use of energy resources and the development of environmental awareness.
- Objective 5: Enhancing institutional capacity with a quality-oriented approach (institutionalizing sustainability).



**Sustainability Coordination Office and its duties (Directive, 2023)**

- Developing sustainability strategies
- Defining policies on climate, energy, waste, water, and carbon management
- Conducting joint projects with local governments, NGOs, and public institutions
- Preparing sustainability reports
- Organizing community-oriented activities

**Key environmental performance indicators (examples)**

Indicator	Baseline (2023)	Target (2028)	Evaluation / Explanation
Green Area / Total Area Ratio (%)	49.80	52.34	A 2.5% increase in the green area ratio is targeted.
Energy Efficiency Investment (₺)	1,968,197	1,978,058	An increase in energy efficiency investments is planned.
Recycled Waste (kg)	17,261	18,141	An approximately 5% increase in the amount of recycled waste is targeted.

**13.3.3 - Does your university as a body participate in co-operative planning for climate change disasters, working with government?**

Üsküdar University contributes to co-operative planning and awareness on climate-related displacement and disaster risks through research, academic events, and social contribution initiatives. For example:

- Institutional informational content on “climate refugees” and climate-induced migration, based on statements by Prof. Dr. Ebulfez Süleymanlı.
- Voluntary participation in the COP29 Summit and contribution to environmental awareness at the international level, presented as a student achievement example.
- International panel participation by Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir within the framework of climate action and ethical approaches (AFS Youth Assembly).
- The launch of the “Mizan: World Environmental Covenant” and its call for multilateral climate action.

**13.3.4 – Does your university as a body inform and support local or regional governments on local climate change disaster/risk early warning and monitoring?**

Üsküdar University carries out its sustainability activities within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the Sustainability Coordination Office, the University has



established committees and operational processes in the areas of energy efficiency, water management, waste reduction, biodiversity, and climate change. Throughout 2024, a wide range of academic and community-based activities strengthened the University's vision of serving as a regional knowledge hub on climate and environmental issues.

Sample activities / evidence links:

- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iklim-degisikligi-biyocesitliligi-azaltiyor/57457>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iklim-degisikligi-hayvanlarin-yasamini-ve-ekosistemleri-tehdit-ediyor/57578>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/ebeler-iklim-krizi-cozumunde-on-emli-bir-guc/47858>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iklim-inkarcilari-iklim-degisikligi-aslinda-bir-komple-mu/44813>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/elektrikli-araclarin-yaydigi-radyasyon-ongorulen-limitlerin-altinda-cikti/56907>

### **Emergency and Disaster Management Program (Vocational School of Health Services) – Curriculum Contribution**

The Emergency and Disaster Management Program, operating under the Vocational School of Health Services, provides an academic structure that supports the University's regional role in knowledge production and education in the fields of climate change, disaster preparedness, and risk management. The 2025–2026 curriculum adopts a holistic approach covering the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery phases of climate-related disasters.

Examples of courses related to early warning, risk monitoring, and community education include:

- ADY115 – Disaster and Emergency Legislation
- ADY119 – Disaster and Emergency Management I & II
- ADY214 – Emergency and Disaster Planning
- ADY200 – Technological Disasters and Environmental Problems
- ADY221 – Epidemics in Disasters
- ADY217 – Practical Disaster and Emergency Management (field applications and simulations)
- Compulsory summer internship (ADY999) involving applied training with local institutions. Evidence link: <https://cdn.uskudar.dev/site/53/content/files/acil-durum-ve-afet-yonetimi-250905111419.pdf>

Through its applied courses and institutional collaborations, students engage with organizations such as Üsküdar Municipality, AFAD, and the Istanbul Governorship Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Center (İRAP), actively contributing to disaster awareness and risk monitoring processes.

During a coordination meeting held on 25 February 2025 at the Vocational School of Health Services, plans were developed to strengthen AFAD awareness trainings for students and staff, municipality-supported volunteer disaster education, joint drills, and practice-oriented training



processes.Evidence link:<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/uskudar-akademisyenlerine-destek-afad-gonullusu-egitimi-verildi/62295>

### 13.3.5- Does the university collaborate with NGOs on climate adaptation?

Üsküdar University actively collaborates with national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the fields of climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, environmental sustainability, and community resilience. These collaborations aim to increase public awareness of the climate crisis, strengthen youth volunteerism, and build resilient communities.

#### Examples of NGO collaborations and related activities/projects:

Project / Activity	Partner Institutions	Year	Relation to Climate Adaptation
<b>Sustainable Volunteer Ambassadors Workshop</b>	Turkish Red Crescent, Haydi Tut Elimi Association, Sessiz İyilikler Platform, Üsküdar Municipality, Üsküdar District Governorship	2023	Community-based sustainability awareness was created.
<b>Intercultural Meeting for a Sustainable Future</b>	Üsküdar University, NGOs, Public Institutions	2025	Nature-based workshops and ecological awareness activities were conducted.
<b>Ambassadors of a Sustainable World Project</b>	UN SDG Network, Üsküdar University	• 2021	Environmental awareness training was provided to middle school students.
<b>From Shadows to Light Project</b>	Ministry of Interior, Kastamonu Federation of Associations	• 2025	Youth sustainable entrepreneurship and community resilience were strengthened.
<b>Cross-Cultural Bridge in Sustainability: From Awareness to Action</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNİDES, Üsküdar University	• 2024	Climate crisis awareness and action-oriented learning model.



<b>I'm Ready for Fire! Project</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNİDES, Üsküdar University	• 2024	Disaster preparedness and resilience.
<b>Flow in Nature Project</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNİDES, Positive Psychology Club	• 2024	Nature-based learning and psychosocial adaptation.
<b>Hatay Cultural Support Project</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNİDES, History Club	• 2023–2024	Post-disaster resilience and social cohesion.

### 13.4 – Carbon Neutral University

#### 13.4.1 - Does your university as a body have a target date by which it will become carbon neutral according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocols?

Üsküdar University carries out various projects in line with its environmental sustainability goals in areas such as energy efficiency, protection of water resources, waste management, and the support of biodiversity. On its campuses, energy-efficient solutions such as smart building systems, LED lighting, insulation applications, and solar panels are widely used. These practices contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to low-carbon energy.

The University's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan identifies the measurement and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the increase of investments in energy efficiency, and the support of a long-term carbon neutrality goal as key institutional priorities. Within this framework, Üsküdar University has adopted a roadmap aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

#### 13.4.2 – Target year for carbon neutrality

2030

The evidence presented in this file demonstrates that the University is progressing toward its 2030 carbon neutrality vision through carbon footprint measurement, low-carbon energy transition, education and awareness programmes, social contribution, and stakeholder collaborations.