TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

Bridge to Future...

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2024

GREEN TRAKYA UNİT


TÜRKİYE İŞ BANKASI
TÜRKİYE İŞ BANKASI


TRAKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ

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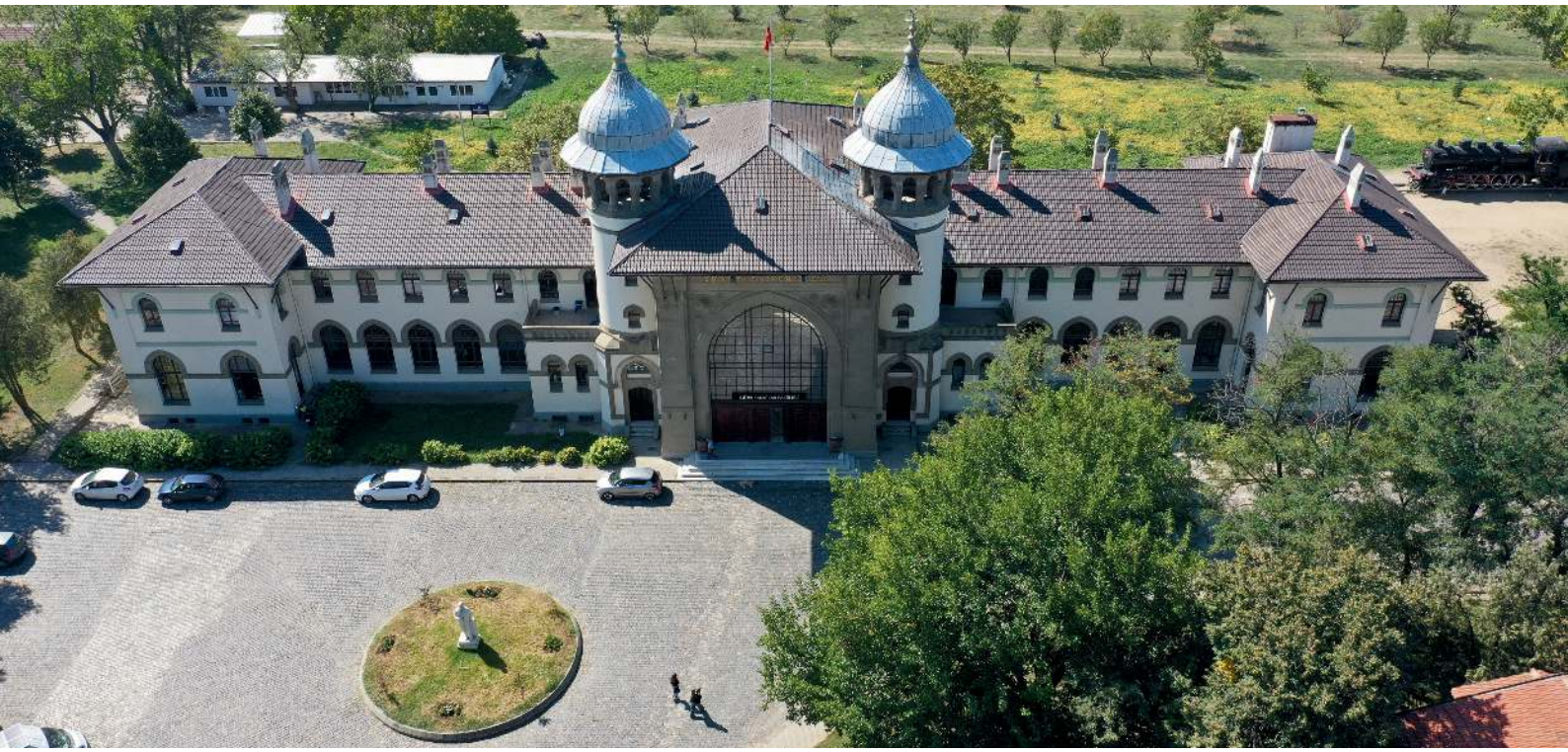
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STUDENTS
36862

ACADEMIC UNIT
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38

STAFF
2890

ALUMNI
Associate Degree
80.397

ALUMNI
Bachelor's Degree
87.156

ALUMNI
Inception Degree
9.396

Contributors



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Vision & Mission

Vision

Our university's vision is to become a respected center of science and art, recognized for its high-quality education, research, and services in Turkey and the Balkans, providing quality health services to society, pioneering university museology, and evolving and transforming through digitalization.

Mission

Trakya University's mission is to cultivate and develop professionally competent individuals who embrace international scientific and artistic values, are open to digital development, and possess a deep-rooted institutional culture and commitment to continuous improvement; and to provide social benefit through scientific research, health services, and cultural, artistic, and sporting activities.

Core Values

- Scientific Approach
- Innovation
- Participation
- Social Responsibility
- Commitment to Ethical Values
- Accountability
- Cultural and Artistic Sensitivity
- Sensitivity to the Environment and Nature
- Focus on Quality
- Openness to Change

Message from the Rector



Trakya University, which set out with the vision of “Bridge to the Future,” continues its determination to build a sustainable future with its deep-rooted institutional culture, scientific production power, social responsibility awareness, and environmentally conscious approach. Our university aims to be one of the leading actors in sustainability, not only in education and research but also in the fields of environment, energy, social justice, and economic development. Our founding philosophy is built on a university approach that values people, knowledge, and nature. In this regard, “contributing to sustainable development goals (SDGs)” is seen as one of the most fundamental tasks of Trakya University.

Located at the heart of the Balkans and strategically positioned at the crossroads of three countries, our location grants us a sphere of responsibility not only regionally but also internationally. With this awareness, we implement a multidimensional sustainability approach that spans from local environmental policies to global climate strategies. For us, sustainability represents a holistic management philosophy that goes beyond environmental policy, combining education, research, innovation, and social contribution. This philosophy aligns with Trakya University's vision of becoming “a green university at the center of science and art, evolving and transforming through digitalization.”

With our institutional culture that embraces continuous development, we place digital transformation at the center of all our processes, from education to research; guided by science, we nurture innovative, productive individuals who benefit society. At the same time, we continue to play a pioneering role in university museology, preserving our cultural heritage; we keep art alive as the aesthetic dimension of science. We view improving the quality of life in society through our strength in healthcare and our people-centered approach as an integral part of sustainable development.

Trakya University operates in collaboration with all its stakeholders through an inclusive, fair, accessible, and transparent management model; it considers the creation of sustainable solutions aligned with the SDGs corporate responsibility. The indicators and activities in this report reflect our University's commitment and concrete achievements in environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

I sincerely thank all our academic and administrative staff, students, local authorities, and all our stakeholders who have wholeheartedly contributed to this process. Trakya University will continue to build bridges to the future, guided by knowledge and science, with a sense of social responsibility and academic excellence, for a green future.

PROF. DR. MUSTAFA HATİPLER
THE RECTOR

Message from the Vice Rector



Environmental, economic, and social sustainability on a global scale are among the most important priorities of our time. Universities are not only institutions that produce knowledge, but also structures that guide society toward a sustainable future, raise environmental awareness, and lead the transformation with examples of good practice. With this understanding, Trakya University integrates its mission of education, research, and social contribution with the principles of sustainability, playing an active role at the regional, national, and international levels.

The work carried out by our university within the scope of the GreenMetric World University Rankings aims to achieve sustainability goals in the areas of management, education, research, social impact, and environmental performance. In this context, concrete steps are being planned in areas such as energy efficiency, reducing the carbon footprint, waste management, efficient water use, protection of green spaces, promotion of renewable energy sources, and sustainable transportation policies. Furthermore, the culture of sustainability has been embedded in our university's institutional identity through the promotion of sustainability-themed research in academic units, the participation of student communities in projects that raise environmental awareness, and community awareness-raising activities.

This Sustainability Report systematically presents Trakya University's current status, areas for development, and future vision in line with its sustainable development goals. Every piece of data, every project, and every initiative included in the report reflects our university's commitment to the principles of environmental sensitivity, social responsibility, and ethical governance.

At Trakya University, we view sustainability not as a goal but as an ongoing process. In this process, the joint efforts of all our components, from our academic and administrative staff to our students, from our graduates to our partner institutions and organizations, are of great importance. With a sense of responsibility for the future, we will resolutely continue our work for a greener, more livable, and more equitable world. I would like to thank all our academic and administrative staff, the Trakya University Green Trakya Unit, our students, and our partners who contributed to the preparation of this report.

PROF. DR. MUSTAFA TAN
Vice Rector of Trakya University

Message from the Green Trakya Unit

Trakya University systematically continues its work in the field of sustainability under the coordination of the Green Trakya Unit and is committed to continuous improvement in this regard. In this context, our unit integrates sustainability principles covering environmental, economic, and social dimensions into university policies and guides institutional development through measurable targets and trackable indicators.

The Green Trakya Unit plans and evaluates activities across energy, water, waste, transportation, land use, education, and research, based on scientific principles. Efforts to reduce our university's ecological footprint, use resources efficiently, and lower carbon emissions are carried out through a data-driven monitoring and reporting system. The sustainability indicators developed within this framework clearly demonstrate Trakya University's progress in environmental performance.

Our unit embraces the fundamental principle of spreading the culture of sustainability among all stakeholders and making this understanding a permanent part of our institutional identity. Joint efforts with academic and administrative units, student communities, and local stakeholders ensure that sustainable lifestyles are adopted on campus and have an impact at the societal level.

In line with the SDGs, the Green Trakya Unit is committed to building a sustainable institutional structure based on scientific knowledge, innovative practices, and continuous improvement to achieve Trakya University's “green campus” vision. This report shares the concrete results of this commitment as reflected in the indicators, once again emphasizing our institutional responsibility towards a sustainable future.

Green Trakya Unit
Trakya University

Introduction

Trakya University is a pioneering higher education institution that integrates sustainable development principles across its education, research, and social contribution processes, thanks to its long-standing academic history, interdisciplinary structure, and campus located in a strategic position between the Balkans and Europe. The university has adopted a highly ecologically conscious management model. It is continuously improving its environmental performance in line with its “Green Campus, Sustainable Future” vision, increasing its recognition at national and international levels through its research and application activities.
Trakya University's environmental policies and sustainability practices are coordinated by the Green Trakya Unit and cover multidimensional areas such as energy efficiency, waste management, water resource conservation, transportation planning, and sustainable education. The impact of these efforts is clearly evident in the results of the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, in which the university participates annually.
The university has achieved remarkable success in the ranking, showing a steady upward trend over the last three years:

- Ranked 288th in 2021 with 6,775 points,
- Ranked 249th in 2022 with 7,320 points,
- Ranked 255th in 2023 with 7,520 points.

These figures show that Trakya University has demonstrated steady progress in sustainability indicators and is steadily advancing towards becoming one of Turkey's greenest universities. The progress recorded in the Campus and Infrastructure, Energy and Climate Change, and Waste Management categories, in particular, proves that the university's environmental management capacity is approaching international standards.
The Sustainability Report was prepared by the Green Trakya Unit to comprehensively assess Trakya University's current status in the field of environment and sustainability. The report examines the university's performance in detail under the headings of Campus and Infrastructure, Energy and Climate Change, Waste, Water, Transportation, and Education.
Trakya University approaches sustainable campus development not only as an environmental goal but also as a corporate responsibility that integrates education, research, and social contribution. In this context, the university aims to directly contribute to the SDGs by promoting environmentally friendly practices, reducing its carbon footprint, increasing resource efficiency, and strengthening the culture of sustainable living.
Trakya University is resolutely advancing towards establishing a model green campus at the national level in line with this holistic vision. It continues its mission to be a pioneering academic actor in the implementation of sustainable development policies at the regional scale.

Strategic Objectives & Targets

In its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, Trakya University has identified five strategic objectives, with the fourth objective specifically focusing on social contribution and sustainability goals. In line with this strategic purpose, each academic and relevant administrative unit has defined its own five-year targets. The university regularly monitors and evaluates its practices within a strategic management framework.

Trakya University's strategic goals and objectives in the context of sustainability and social contribution are as follows:

- Objective (O4): To be sensitive to the problems and needs of internal and external stakeholders and to strengthen social relations.
  - Goal (G4.1): To enhance and sustain "Accessible University" initiatives.
  - Goal (G4.2): To increase environmental awareness through "Green University" projects.
  - Goal (G4.3): To improve the physical and socio-cultural facilities of the campuses.
  - Goal (G4.4): To provide training in areas needed by society and to carry out activities that contribute to solving social problems.
  - Goal (G4.5): To improve and sustain healthcare services.

SETTING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Setting & Infrastructure

Founded in Edirne in 1982, Trakya University is one of the region's most important higher education institutions, with a long-standing history and a multifaceted academic structure. The university operates with 14 faculties, 5 institutes, 4 colleges, 10 vocational schools, 1 conservatory, and 38 application and research centers. The Balkan Campus, Trakya University's first and largest campus, covers approximately 2,215,744 m². The campus is located in the Kocasinan district of Edirne province, at coordinates 41°38'13.66'' latitude and 26°36'38.46'' longitude. Situated in a transitional area between urban and rural environments, the Balkan Campus is a strategically important center both academically and socially. The campus houses 9 faculties, 1 college, 38 research centers, hospitals, the rectorate building, a library, a cultural center, social life areas, student dormitories, and accommodation units. Located 7.8 km from the city center, the Balkan Campus has been continuously developing since its establishment, strengthening its physical, academic, and social infrastructure.

Number of Campus Sites

Trakya University has 11 campuses in the city center and the districts of Edirne. These are:

1. Balkan Campus (Main Campus)
2. Karağaç Campus
3. Ayşekadın Campus
4. İsmail Hakkı Tonguç Campus
5. Ahmet Karadeniz Campus,
6. Selimiye Campus
7. Uzunköprü Mimar Müslihiddin Campus
8. Keşan Paşayiğit Campus
9. Keşan Hersekzade Campus
10. Havsa Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Campus
11. İpsala Gazi Evrenos Campus

Setting & Infrastructure



Balkan Campus (Main Campus)



Karaağaç Campus

Setting & Infrastructure

Campus Setting

Trakya University Balkan Campus is located in a transition zone between urban and rural environments. The campus is situated on the rural-urban fringe, characterized by dense forest cover and cultivated agricultural fields, making it a site with significant potential to preserve ecological diversity and promote sustainable land use. The Balkan Campus is affiliated with the provincial center of Edirne, one of Turkey's strategically important border cities. The Edirne provincial center covers 844 km² and has a population of 194,991. This indicates a relatively low population density of approximately 231 people per km² in the city center.



Balkan Campus

Setting & Infrastructure

Total Campus Area and Total Campus Buildings Area

Trakya University, in addition to its main campus, the Balkan Campus, also continues its educational, teaching, and research activities at various other campuses. Therefore, the reported total area covers the combined area of all campuses where Trakya University conducts its educational and teaching activities.

Campus	Total area (m^2)	Total distance (m)
Balkan Campus	2.215.744	8.052
Ayşekadın Campus	104.480,05	1.488,92
Karaağaç Campus	185.735,9	2.240,11
İsmail Hakkı Tonguç Campus	41.386,21	1.380,66
Ahmet Karadeniz Campus	80.226,44	1.270,1
Selimiye Campus	24.051,74	628,51
Uzunköprü Mimar Müslihiddin Campus	13.991,36	490.09
Keşan Paşayiğit Campus	25.392,17	670.45
Keşan Hersekzade Campus	54.834,58	1.034,94
Havsa Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Campus	27.995,73	795,18
İpsala Gazi Evrenos Campus	89.470,82	1.483,73
Total	**2.863.309**	**19.534,69**

Setting & Infrastructure

Building name	Total area (m^2)
Balkan	291.424
Ayşekadın	6.801
Karaağaç	24.447
İsmail Hakkı Tonguç	15.023
Ahmet Karadeniz	25.230
Selimiye	7.576
Uzunköprü Mimar Müslihiddin	10.116
Keşan Paşayiğit	7.621
Keşan Hersekzade	16. 315
Havsa Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Campus	4.647
İpsala Gazi Evrenos	4.731
Total	413.931

Setting & Infrastructure

Total Area on Campus Covered in Forest Vegetation

The total size of the wooded areas within Trakya University campuses is 529,655.87 square meters. The university's total campus area is 2,863,309 square meters, and accordingly, the forest cover accounts for 18.4% of the total campus area.





Total area on campus covered in planted vegetation

The total planted vegetation area on the campuses of Trakya University is 1,536,307.68 square meters. The university's total campus area is 2,863,309 square meters, indicating that the green and open areas of the campuses have a strong ecological structure. Accordingly, the proportion of planted area constitutes 53.6% of the total campus area.





Setting & Infrastructure

Total area on campus for water absorption, besides the forest and planted vegetation

Trakya University Balkan Campus emphasizes permeable surface applications that support water infiltration beyond forest and natural vegetation areas. Especially in pedestrian pathways, building entrances, squares, parking areas, and open social spaces, permeable paving materials allow rainwater to seep into the ground without mixing with surface runoff, making an ecological contribution to the campus's water cycle. Throughout the campus, the use of permeable materials such as natural stone pavements, porous asphalt, and grass jointed parking surfaces has been widespread.





Campus facilities for disabled, special needs, and or maternity care

Trakya University provides inclusive and accessible facilities throughout the campus for individuals with disabilities, groups with special needs, and users who require maternal support. In accordance with universal design principles, ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, and parking areas suitable for disabled users have been arranged in many faculties and administrative buildings. Additionally, to support the active participation of visually and hearing-impaired individuals in campus life, tactile surfaces, handrails on stairs, directional signs in Braille, and audio warning systems have been integrated at various points across the campus.

The main facilities offered by our university's academic and administrative buildings include:

- Accessible parking areas near all buildings,
- Building entrances supported by accessible restrooms and ramps,
- Elevators suitable for disabled use (some with Braille-supported floor buttons for the visually impaired),
- Audio warning systems and tactile surfaces,

Setting & Infrastructure

- Accessible classrooms and amphitheaters with wide door openings and designated seating areas for disabled individuals,
- Nursing rooms for mothers in many academic and administrative buildings.

In addition, the Armağan Dönertaş Center for Education, Rehabilitation, and Research for Disabled Children provides exceptional support for children with disabilities. As of 2025, the Periodicals Room in the Main Library has been redesigned to be accessible to visually impaired individuals. Furthermore, within the scope of the university's accreditation processes and accessibility standards, new arrangements are made annually to improve the physical environment for people with disabilities.
Alongside these efforts, the Disabled University Unit, established within the Directorate of Health, Culture, and Sports at Trakya University, provides additional support to students. This unit provides guidance, orientation, and support services to strengthen the equal participation of disabled students in academic, social, and cultural life. Thus, our university's vision of being an inclusive and barrier-free campus is reinforced.





Security and safety facilites

Trakya University Balkan Campus has a comprehensive security and safety infrastructure to protect students, staff, and visitors. The campus employs 24/7 security personnel, electronic monitoring systems, fire safety equipment, and emergency infrastructure.

- High-resolution closed-circuit camera (CCTV) systems are installed at the main entrances of the Balkan Campus and faculty entrances. This allows for recording entries and exits to the campus and continuous monitoring of campus security.

Setting & Infrastructure

- Fire hydrants and fire extinguishers are located at all faculty building entrances and in central areas.
- Designated emergency assembly areas are available at different points within the campus. These areas are marked with signs and are used as safe gathering points during disasters and emergencies.
- All faculty and institute buildings are equipped with emergency exit doors, illuminated directional signs, and emergency evacuation plans.
- Security booths and mobile patrols regularly patrol the campus.

Additionally, at the Balkan campus, there is an Emergency and Disaster Coordination Office affiliated with the Trakya University Rectorate General Secretariat, and all faculties have Emergency, Firefighting, Rescue, Protection, and First Aid Committees, which conduct training and drills each semester.





Health infrastructure facilities for students, academics and administrative staff's well-being

Trakya University Health Research and Application Center, with a closed area of 120,000 m² and a capacity of 942 staff beds, serves our university students and academic and administrative staff with its units, including operating rooms, emergency services, outpatient clinics, the Oncology Unit, and the Mental Health and Disorders Unit. Within the hospital, 229 academic faculty members work alongside 629 research assistants, 1,074 healthcare assistants, 190 administrative staff, and an additional 769 permanent (public) employees.

Setting & Infrastructure



Each year, approximately 40,000 patients are hospitalized, 650,000 patients receive outpatient treatment, around 20,000 surgeries are performed, and approximately 6,500,000 laboratory tests are conducted. In addition, approximately 50,000 patients receive emergency services. There are 29 specialized outpatient clinics, 21 operating rooms, a 14-bed Emergency Unit, a 7-bed Resuscitation Intensive Care Unit, a 22-bed Internal Medicine Intensive Care (1-2) Unit, a 12-bed Surgical Sciences Intensive Care Unit, a 4-bed second-stage Post-op Intensive Care Unit, a 16-bed Coronary Intensive Care Unit, a 10-bed Cardiovascular Surgery Intensive Care Unit, a 20-bed Pediatric Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 6-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, 20-bed Respiratory Intensive Care (1 and 2) Units, 22-seat Outpatient Chemotherapy Unit, 18-machine Hemodialysis Center, Central Laboratory (Multidisciplinary) for treatment and research purposes, Ultrasonography, Mammography, CT and 2 MRI units, Angiography Laboratory, Biochemistry Laboratory, Microbiology Laboratory, Hematology Laboratory, Nuclear Medicine Laboratory, Electron Microscopy, Pathology and Molecular Pathology Laboratory, EEG and EMG Laboratories, Echocardiography and Treadmill Laboratories, EKG and Blood Pressure Holter Laboratory, Bone Densitometry, Eye Laser Unit, Allergy Unit, Respiratory Function Test Laboratory, Endoscopy, Rectoscopy and Colonoscopy Laboratories, Bronchoscopy Laboratory, Physiology Laboratory, Radioisotope Scan Laboratory, X-Ray Laboratory, Interventional Radiology Unit, Audiometry Laboratory, ESWL Laboratory, Radiation Oncology Unit, examination, testing, diagnosis, surgery, and treatment services, as well as providing students with practical training opportunities in medical education and allied health services education.

Setting & Infrastructure



Trakya University Hospital

Conservation: plant, animal, and wildlife, genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities

Trakya University Balkan Campus has launched medium- and long-term conservation programs for various flora and fauna species this year, aiming to protect the region's biological diversity and ensure its sustainable use. These programs aim to protect local endemic species and sustainably preserve agricultural genetic resources. Located within the campus.

- Plant Cultivation Greenhouse and Hobby Gardens: The plant cultivation greenhouse and hobby gardens at the Balkan Campus provide an important infrastructure for the conservation and reproduction of genetic resources. Both students and researchers conduct practical training and production work in these areas, and research on the conservation of local plant species is supported.

Setting & Infrastructure

- Edirne Red Plant (*Rubia tinctorum L.*): Trakya University runs a special program for the re-cultivation and conservation of the “Edirne Red” plant, which represents the cultural heritage of Edirne. Intensively cultivated in Edirne and its surroundings in the 17th and 18th centuries, this plant was exported to Europe and recognized in European literature as “Turkish Red” or “Edirne Red.” This natural dye, developed by Edirne dyers who kept its formula secret for many years, holds an important place in the region's historical and economic identity. Although the use of natural dye plants declined in the 19th century with the spread of synthetic dyes, the emergence of their negative effects on human and environmental health has led to a return to their use. In recent years, projects have been carried out in both Turkey and Europe to cultivate madder (*Rubia tinctorum L.*). In this context, Trakya University has launched a research project titled “Determination of the Agricultural Potential of the Natural Dye Plant Madder (*Rubia tinctorum L.*) in Edirne Conditions” (TÜBAP-2021/41). The project aims to determine the agricultural potential of the madder plant under regional ecological conditions and to reintroduce Edirne Red into cultural, scientific, and economic life. Within the scope of this program, the plant is cultivated in greenhouses and preserved for the long term. The goal is to reintroduce this species, which has both cultural and agricultural value, into ecological and economic life. On May 24, 2024, the “Edirne Rose and Red Research and Application Center” was established at our university to research natural dyes and dyeing techniques.
- The Arboretum conservation area established in the Balkan Settlement ensures the long-term protection of numerous tree and shrub species. This area serves both scientific research and educational activities.





EDIRNE KIRMIZISI URETIMINDE KULLANILAN RUBİA TINCTORUM'UN İLK HASADI YAPILDI

Trakya Üniversitesi tarafından bir master plan çerçevesinde yürütülen Edirne Kırmızısı çalışmalarında büyük bir adım daha atıldı. Rengin üretiminde kullanılan kök boya bitkisi Rubia tinctorumun Edirne topraklarında yetiştirilerek çoğaltılması için yapılan çalışmalar sonucunda bitkinin kök hasatı yapıldı.

Setting & Infrastructure

Trakya University's campus infrastructure reflects a comprehensive and inclusive approach to sustainability, accessibility, and environmental stewardship. With 11 campuses spanning a total area of 2,863,309 m², including the Balkan Campus as its principal academic and administrative hub, the university combines modern facilities with an ecologically sensitive landscape. Approximately 53.6% of the total campus land is covered with planted vegetation, and 18.4% with forested areas, underscoring the institution's commitment to maintaining biodiversity and natural balance. The integration of permeable surfaces across pedestrian areas, courtyards, and parking zones enhances water infiltration and supports effective stormwater management, illustrating the university's ecological design perspective. Furthermore, Trakya University promotes an inclusive campus model that enables individuals with disabilities, special needs, or maternity requirements to fully and safely participate in university life. Facilities such as accessible ramps, elevators, tactile surfaces, Braille signage, audio systems, and dedicated nursing rooms ensure universal access across all academic and administrative units. The Disabled University Unit provides specialized guidance and support, fostering an equitable educational environment aligned with universal design principles.

The university's security and emergency infrastructure, including 24/7 monitored CCTV systems, fire safety equipment, and well-marked evacuation zones, demonstrates a proactive approach to campus safety and resilience. Health and well-being are supported through the Trakya University Health Research and Application Center, a major healthcare facility with 942 beds and extensive medical and research services that serve not only the university community but also the wider region. Equally significant are the university's initiatives in biodiversity conservation and genetic resource preservation, such as the Arboretum, Plant Cultivation Greenhouse, and the World Sunflower Collection Garden, all of which contribute to research, education, and long-term ecological protection. The conservation of the historical Edirne Red (Rubia tinctorum L.) plant also demonstrates the university's unique integration of cultural heritage and environmental sustainability.

Setting & Infrastructure

Through this holistic approach to infrastructure planning, accessibility, health, safety, and biodiversity, Trakya University exemplifies how a modern educational institution can operate as a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient ecosystem. These efforts are directly aligned with the SDGs-notably SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 15 (Life on Land)-reinforcing the university's role as a model of sustainable development in both the national and international academic landscape.











ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy & Climate change

Energy Efficient Appliances Usage

Trakya University actively promotes the use of energy-efficient technologies across its campus as part of its sustainability and energy management strategies. The university prioritizes the use of high-efficiency devices, such as LED lighting systems, inverter-type air conditioners, low-energy-consumption computers, and energy-efficient ventilation systems, in place of traditional electrical appliances to achieve energy savings.

The inventory of energy-efficient devices is regularly monitored by the Directorate of Construction and Technical Affairs and the Energy Management Unit. The energy efficiency ratio is calculated each year using data collected from all faculties, units, and administrative buildings.

According to the 2025 inventory, approximately 45% of the university's electrical devices are energy-efficient models. A large part of this transformation has been achieved through LED lighting fixtures (42.6%) and low-consumption ventilation systems (47.1%). These applications contribute significantly to the campus's low-carbon goals by reducing overall electricity consumption.





Elements of Green Building Implementation as Reflected in All Buildings

The buildings on the Trakya University campus are designed in accordance with passive design principles aimed at reducing energy consumption. Most of the structures are positioned to maximize natural light and airflow, and natural lighting and ventilation systems have been integrated into the design process. Additionally, the buildings feature facade materials that reduce heat loss, rainwater harvesting areas, and waste separation points. These design approaches align with the university's policies to enhance energy efficiency, reduce its carbon footprint, and support sustainable campus goals.

Energy & Climate change



Faculty of Medicine



Faculty of Pharmacy

Energy & Climate change

Greenhouse gas emission reduction program

- Charging for parking of private vehicles to reduce the number of vehicles on campusus
- Using renewable energy for electricity reduces purchased electricity
- Use of an electric vehicle



Electric vehicle (TOGG)



Parking charge point

The Total Carbon Footprint

Trakya University has calculated its institutional carbon footprint for the 2024-2025 period in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) methodology, using the carbonfootprint.com platform. The calculation accounted for annual electricity consumption and transportation-related emissions. Accordingly, the University's total carbon emissions were determined to be 17,516 tons of CO_2e. Considering the total campus population of 44,451 people (students and staff), the annual carbon footprint per person was calculated at approximately 0.39 tons of CO_2e.

This result reflects Trakya University's commitment to energy efficiency practices, promoting low-carbon transportation alternatives, and transitioning to zero-emission transportation policies. The university aims to continue its efforts to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the future.

Energy & Climate change

Number of innovative program(s) in energy and climate change

Trakya University contributes to the SDGs by developing innovative academic programs focused on energy efficiency and climate change adaptation. In the 2025–2026 academic year, the “Digital Agriculture Technologies” and “Renewable Energy Engineering” programs were launched within this scope. These programs aim to train qualified technical personnel in the areas of efficient use of renewable energy sources, energy management, digital agriculture applications, and the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

The university has also initiated a transformation process in energy and climate management applications.

- The foundations for zero-emission transportation have been laid with the introduction of electric vehicles into the campus fleet.
- The goal is to reduce fossil fuel-based energy consumption by switching to clean energy sources.
- Drip irrigation is used for plant watering, which both saves water and significantly reduces energy consumption.



Energy & Climate change

These innovative programs and applications are closely aligned with Trakya University's Sustainability Action Plan, which aims to increase energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and strengthen environmental awareness. Trakya University has made remarkable progress in creating an environmentally responsible and energy-efficient campus through its integrated approach to energy management and climate action. The widespread use of energy-efficient appliances, such as LED lighting, inverter-type air conditioners, and low-consumption ventilation systems, has substantially reduced overall electricity demand and operational emissions. Additionally, the adoption of passive architectural designs, natural ventilation systems, and rainwater harvesting features in new and existing buildings demonstrates the university’s commitment to sustainable construction principles. By continuously monitoring energy performance and maintaining an inventory of efficient technologies, Trakya University ensures that energy conservation is embedded into its institutional operations and development strategies.

The university’s calculated carbon footprint of 17,516 tons of CO_2e for the 2024–2025 period-equivalent to approximately 0.39 tons of CO_2e per person-illustrates measurable progress toward achieving a low-carbon, sustainable campus. This reduction is supported by initiatives such as the introduction of electric vehicles, the use of renewable energy sources, drip irrigation systems, and parking management strategies designed to minimize fossil fuel dependence. In parallel, the establishment of innovative academic programs, such as Digital Agriculture Technologies and Renewable Energy Engineering, reinforces the university’s scientific and educational contributions to global sustainability and climate resilience. These multidimensional efforts position Trakya University as an institution that not only implements energy-saving technologies but also fosters environmental awareness, research innovation, and social responsibility. Collectively, these practices align closely with the SDGs-specifically SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) through the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable sources, SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through technological advancement and sustainable infrastructure, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through low-carbon campus planning, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by optimizing resource use, and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through systematic emission reduction and education for climate adaptation.

WASTE

Waste

3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Program for University Waste

Trakya University has developed a systematic and comprehensive approach to waste management by adopting the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles in line with its sustainable campus vision. Reducing, reusing, and recycling waste across the university are considered fundamental components of environmental responsibility.



Waste

Waste Collection and Separation: Separate recycling bins for plastic, paper, and glass waste have been set up in all faculties of the university, and regular waste collection services are provided from these bins. Collected waste is recorded through the Zero Waste Information System; this allows the amount of waste recycled each year to be reported and sustainability performance to be monitored.






3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

Management of Electronic and Hazardous Waste: The university has developed special applications for the regular collection and safe recycling of electronic waste (e-waste) and printer cartridges. These applications prevent heavy metals and toxic compounds from entering the environment and contribute to the circular economy.

Waste

Medical Waste Management: Medical waste generated at Trakya University Faculty of Medicine Hospital, as well as the Faculties of Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Health Sciences, is collected separately in accordance with international standards and disposed of through licensed organizations. This practice is a critical step towards protecting both environmental and human health. Trakya University regularly reports on its progress toward its zero-waste goal, conducts awareness campaigns, and continues to invest in increasing recycling rates. In this context, Trakya University actively contributes to protecting the campus ecosystem and implementing the country's national waste management policies.





Total volume of paper and plastic produced

Trakya University has achieved an overall decrease in paper waste, while there has been a limited increase in plastic waste due to growth in academic units. The university continues to be committed to reducing waste through practices such as expanding electronic document management systems, encouraging double-sided use of paper, and raising awareness to reduce the use of plastic bottles and cups.

Trakya University has generated a total of 29.4 tons of waste by 2025 through its efforts in waste management. Of this amount, 7.4 tons are paper waste and 22 tons are plastic waste. The data obtained shows that the university has made significant progress in environmental sustainability. The low level of paper waste indicates that sustainable practices such as the widespread use of digital document management systems, double-sided printing, and the promotion of electronic communication have been effectively implemented. The limited increase in plastic waste shows that the university has maintained a balance in waste management despite its growing academic and administrative structure.

Waste

Program to Reduce the Use of Paper and Plastic on Campus

Trakya University is conducting comprehensive studies to reduce resource consumption, promote reuse, and increase recycling rates by integrating the principles of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” into its daily operations in line with its sustainability vision.

- Reducing Paper Usage: Our university has significantly reduced paper consumption by effectively using electronic information systems in administrative processes and academic operations. Event invitations are sent electronically, interactive whiteboards are used in meetings, and all our staff take care to use both sides of paper. Online applications, document sharing, and digital signature systems minimize both costs and carbon emissions, thereby reducing environmental impact.
- Reducing Plastic Use: Trakya University organizes awareness campaigns and training sessions to reduce plastic bag use; it leads the way in bringing about lasting behavioral change across the campus by encouraging students and staff to carry cloth bags. In addition, students are encouraged to “carry a thermos” to reduce the use of plastic cups, and the use of reusable materials is supported. Furthermore, water purification devices located in all units of our university significantly reduce plastic bottle consumption.
- Activities for Waste Recycling: Workshops and events organized with students across many faculties ensure waste recycling, and this process is also used to raise awareness and educate students. By reprocessing waste, students both produce environmental benefits and raise social awareness through creative projects.
- Alignment with a Global Approach: Our university's practices are in line with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) “Beat Plastic Pollution” campaign, making the “If you can't reuse it, refuse it” approach part of campus life.

As a result, Trakya University's paper, plastic, and recycling-focused practices are consistent with the globally adopted 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles. Through these efforts, the university is both reducing its own carbon footprint and promoting a sustainable lifestyle culture for students and the academic community.

Waste

The programs implemented in this context are listed below:

- Use of electronic information systems (reducing paper consumption): Trakya University significantly reduces paper consumption by extensively using electronic information systems in administrative and academic processes. Online applications, document sharing, digital signatures, and electronic archiving applications save resources and reduce the carbon footprint.
- Sending event invitations electronically: All academic and social event invitations are sent digitally, saving paper.
- Use of interactive whiteboards in meetings: Interactive whiteboards are used in faculty and department meetings to prevent printing.
- Double-sided printing: Our staff are instructed to use both sides of the paper to reduce waste.
- Awareness campaigns to reduce plastic bag use: Our university aims to reduce plastic bag use by organizing training and campaigns for students and staff.
- Encouraging the use of cloth bags: Cloth bags are preferred over plastic bags to promote sustainable consumption habits.
- Using thermos flasks instead of plastic cups: Awareness campaigns are conducted among students and staff to encourage the use of thermos flasks instead of disposable cups.
- Use of water purification devices (reducing plastic bottle consumption): Water purification devices are available in all university units to reduce plastic bottle consumption.
- Activities for recycling waste: In activities organized with students in the faculties, waste is reused, ensuring both recycling and increased awareness.
- Recycling of electronic waste and printer cartridges: E-waste and printer cartridges are collected separately and recycled through licensed companies.
- Separate and safe collection of medical waste: Medical waste generated in the Hospital, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Health Sciences Faculty is collected regularly and safely.
- Recording waste with the Zero Waste Information System: Waste collected from all units is processed in the Zero Waste Information System, and annual reports are prepared.

Waste



Incentives for alternatives to plastic use

Organic Waste Treatment

At Trakya University, a large portion of organic waste comes from cafeteria leftovers. The amount of organic waste, which was 35 tons last year, has increased to 37 tons this year. The main reason for this increase is the steady rise in the number of students and staff each year. Our university makes significant efforts to recycle these wastes and return them to nature. In particular, organic waste collected from cafeterias is carefully separated and used to feed animals within the campus. This way, waste management is carried out sustainably, and the integrity of the ecosystem is supported. Additionally, in the near future, it is planned to evaluate organic waste through composting and biogas production projects. This will contribute to the university's zero-waste vision and improve energy efficiency by developing good practices toward a circular economy. Furthermore, paper collection boxes placed in all faculties and units of the university ensure that paper waste is regularly collected and recycled. This practice helps conserve resources and supports the zero-waste goals.

Waste

Total volume inorganic waste treated

Trakya University conducts regular collection and sorting processes through waste collection points established in every faculty and department to recycle inorganic and non-toxic waste. This waste is delivered to relevant licensed companies under the Zero Waste Management System and included in the recycling chain.

Overall Situation: The amount of inorganic waste, which was 49.1 tons last year, has decreased to 29.8 tons this year. Thus, a reduction of 19.3 tons has been achieved, and 78.9 tons of this waste have been processed (treated/reused) and recycled.

Subcategories

Paper waste: Paper waste, which was 7.9 tons last year, decreased to 7.4 tons this year, a decrease of 0.5 tons; a total of 15.3 tons of paper has been recycled.

Plastic waste: The amount of plastic waste was 21.3 tons last year and 22 tons this year, an increase of 0.7 tons. Despite this, the university directed 43.3 tons of plastic waste to recycling.

Glass waste: While there was no significant glass waste last year, 0.4 tons were collected this year, and all of it was recycled.

Metal waste: Metal waste, which totaled 19.9 tons last year, fell to 14.2 tons this year, a decrease of 5.7 tons. A total of 34.1 tons of metal waste was included in the recycling process.

The data indicate that Trakya University has made remarkable progress in reducing waste and implementing sustainable waste management practices. While there has been a notable decrease in paper and metal waste, reflecting the effectiveness of digitalization, efficient material use, and sustainable procurement practices, a slight increase in plastic and glass waste is observed due to the expansion of academic and social activities on campus. Despite this, the university has successfully ensured that all categories of waste are systematically collected, sorted, and recycled through licensed waste management partners under the Zero Waste Management System.

This achievement demonstrates the university's commitment to a circular economy model, where waste is treated as a resource and reintegrated into production cycles. By processing and recycling 78.9 tons of inorganic waste, Trakya University not only reduces its environmental footprint but also strengthens its role as a leading institution in sustainable campus operations. These efforts significantly advance the university's zero-waste vision, align with the SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and set a benchmark for environmentally responsible higher education institutions in the region.

Waste

Total volume of toxic waste produced

At Trakya University, the management of toxic waste is carried out in line with the vision of environmental sustainability and human health protection, in accordance with the Zero Waste Management System. Toxic waste generated in all faculties, laboratories, and research centers is regularly collected, recorded, and safely recycled or disposed of through licensed companies.

Laboratory Chemicals: Laboratory chemical waste, which was 17,266 tons last year, has decreased to 11,811 tons this year. Thus, a reduction of 5,455 tons has been achieved. A total of 29,077 tons of waste has been treated, ensuring it is disposed of without harming the environment and not directed to recycling processes.

The data shows that Trakya University has achieved a significant reduction in toxic waste production, and that all toxic waste has been processed by licensed organizations using safe, sustainable methods. These practices align directly with the university's goals of minimizing environmental risks, ensuring the safety of its research activities, and advancing its zero-waste vision.

Trakya University has developed an integrated, data-driven waste management system based on the 3R principles-Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle-which are a cornerstone of its sustainable campus strategy. By adopting a holistic approach that combines technological innovation, awareness-raising, and institutional governance, the university effectively minimizes waste generation. It promotes a circular-economy mindset across all academic and administrative units. The establishment of separate waste collection systems for paper, plastic, glass, electronic, and medical waste, along with the digital tracking of collected materials through the Zero Waste Information System, enables precise monitoring and transparent reporting of sustainability performance. This system ensures that all waste-whether recyclable, organic, or hazardous is handled responsibly and contributes to reducing environmental impact.

Waste

The university's continuous efforts to reduce paper and plastic consumption through electronic communication systems, double-sided printing, digital signatures, and online documentation not only decrease resource use but also reduce carbon emissions associated with production and transportation. Awareness campaigns encouraging the use of cloth bags, thermos cups, and purified tap water instead of disposable plastics reinforce behavioral change and promote a campus culture of environmental responsibility. Furthermore, organic waste recycling initiatives, including the reuse of cafeteria leftovers for animal feeding and the planning of composting and biogas production projects, demonstrate an advanced transition toward circular waste management. Simultaneously, the university's meticulous management of medical, toxic, and electronic waste through licensed organizations ensures compliance with environmental safety regulations, protecting both ecosystems and public health.

These coordinated initiatives have produced measurable results: significant reductions in paper and metal waste, the stabilization of plastic waste despite institutional growth, and the safe treatment of over 29 tons of various waste types in 2025. Through these achievements, Trakya University exemplifies the practical application of global sustainability standards in higher education. This success directly aligns with the SDGs - promoting good health and well-being (SDG 3) by preventing environmental hazards; ensuring clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) through effective waste treatment and pollution control; advancing responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) via resource-efficient practices; and supporting climate action (SDG 13) by minimizing waste-related carbon emissions.

Through its comprehensive waste management framework, Trakya University enhances institutional sustainability performance and encourages ecological responsibility and innovation within the campus community. The university's continuous efforts to embed environmental awareness into daily practices reflect a dedicated and evolving approach toward zero-waste transformation, circular economy integration, and environmentally responsible education.



WATER

Water

Water Conservation Program Implementation

Trakya University has implemented water conservation and sustainable water management practices across its campus.

- There are two above-ground rainwater collection tanks on campus, each with a capacity of 2 tons, that collect rainwater from roofs. The rainwater collected in these tanks is used to irrigate the hobby gardens where students plant and grow crops.
- The Balkan Campus also has 12 underground water wells and 5 water reservoirs, which meet a significant portion of the campus's water needs. Drip irrigation systems are used for plant watering to ensure efficient water use.
- The natural lake within the campus boundaries collects a portion of the rainwater and serves as a supplementary irrigation source for plants. Sensor-controlled faucets and urinal systems are used in all buildings to prevent unnecessary water consumption.
- In addition, there is a wastewater treatment plant on campus. Furthermore, the local municipality also carries out centralized wastewater treatment.

These practices support Trakya University's strategic approach to the conservation, recovery, and sustainable use of water resources.





Water

Water Recycling Program Implementation

Various practices are being implemented on Trakya University campuses to reuse and recover wastewater. There is a wastewater treatment plant on campus. The treated water is used in secondary applications such as irrigating landscaping areas. Additionally, the local municipality to which the campus belongs also performs centralized wastewater treatment. These two systems work together to increase water reuse rates and reduce pressure on natural water sources. These practices align with the university's circular water management and sustainability policies.

Water-Efficient Appliance Usage

Various efficient water fixtures and systems are used at Trakya University to conserve water. In this context, automatically controlled urinal flush valves, low-flow toilets, and low-flow faucets are widely implemented across the campus. Additionally, sensor (automatic) faucet systems help prevent unnecessary water usage, thereby supporting water efficiency and sustainable resource management.





Consumption of treated water

At Trakya University Balkan Campus, water treatment systems and rainwater storage systems operate in an integrated manner. The wastewater treatment plant on campus ensures that wastewater generated across the university is treated and reused. Additionally, rainwater collection units gather water from rooftops, which is then stored and used for watering green areas and landscape applications. Furthermore, all wastewater generated across Trakya University campuses is also treated by the Edirne Municipality Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant. This facility ensures wastewater is disposed of and recycled without harming the environment, supporting the university's regional sustainable water management policies.

Water

Water pollution control in the campus area

Within Trakya University, there is a wastewater treatment plant, and additionally, wastewater originating from the university campuses is treated at the Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant by the Edirne Municipality. These practices demonstrate the university's commitment to protecting water resources and reducing water pollution.

Within the university, the creation of a 'Water Management Policy' to regulate water use, recycling, and wastewater treatment is in the design phase. This policy aims to comprehensively guide strategies for water conservation, recovery, and pollution prevention across the campus. Furthermore, plans are to establish a committee composed of academics from related disciplines, such as Environmental Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and Biology, along with student representatives. This committee will be responsible for coordinating strategies to monitor, prevent, and manage water pollution. The university aims to develop technical systems for the reuse of gray water from sinks, showers, and laundry facilities in toilet tanks, heating and cooling systems, or for irrigation of landscape areas. Laboratory waste, chemical storage areas, and sewer lines are regularly inspected; the quality of regional water sources (lakes, streams, groundwater) is periodically analyzed. Additionally, there is a focus on supporting research on biological and chemical pollutant removal and natural treatment systems (such as artificial wetlands), and on encouraging faculty and student participation in projects focused on water quality management and pollution reduction.



Trakya University wastewater treatment system

Water



Edirne Municipality advanced biological wastewater treatment plant

Trakya University's integrated water conservation and management programs reflect a deep institutional commitment to sustainability, resource efficiency, and environmental protection. By implementing rainwater harvesting systems, underground wells, and wastewater treatment facilities, the university ensures that water is conserved, reused, and managed responsibly across its campuses. The use of sensor-controlled and low-flow water fixtures, along with drip irrigation and natural rainwater collection systems, demonstrates a proactive approach to reducing water consumption and optimizing the use of natural resources. The collaboration with the Edirne Municipality Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant further strengthens the university's capacity to treat, recycle, and safely dispose of wastewater, minimizing environmental risks and ensuring compliance with national and international environmental standards.

Water

In addition to its technical infrastructure, Trakya University's commitment to developing a comprehensive Water Management Policy and establishing an interdisciplinary Water Management Committee demonstrates a strategic, governance-based approach to sustainability. By involving experts from Environmental Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and Biology, as well as student representatives, the university is ensuring inclusive participation and shared responsibility in monitoring, preventing, and managing water pollution. Research and academic projects focused on biological and chemical pollutant removal, graywater reuse, and natural treatment systems such as artificial wetlands reinforce the integration of science, innovation, and education in addressing real-world sustainability challenges.

These initiatives collectively position Trakya University as a model institution in sustainable water management and environmental stewardship, contributing directly to the SDGs - particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) through improved water use and quality management, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) through circular resource practices, SDG 13 (Climate Action) by enhancing resilience against water-related climate impacts, and SDG 15 (Life on Land) through the protection of ecosystems and water-dependent biodiversity. Through these coordinated actions, the university demonstrates how higher education institutions can lead in conserving natural resources while advancing scientific, social, and ecological sustainability.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation

Shuttle Services

The university provides regular and free shuttle services. In the future, converting these shuttle vehicles to zero-emission (electric) vehicles is part of both budget planning and sustainable transportation strategies.



Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) availability on campus

Trakya University promotes a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) policy across its campuses. All campuses are designed to be pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly, with dedicated vehicle-free routes and bicycle paths that support sustainable mobility. The University provides bike parking areas, electric vehicle charging stations, and zero-emission vehicles, which are available free of charge to support staff and student transportation within the campus. Additionally, free shuttle services are offered to minimize internal traffic and reduce carbon emissions. Future plans include expanding electric service vehicles and e-bike infrastructure, reinforcing Trakya University's commitment to sustainable, low-carbon transportation.

Transportation





Program to limit or decrease the parking area on campus for the last 3 years

Measures to limit and reduce parking areas on Trakya University campuses;

The opening of new parking areas has been restricted, and the capacity of existing areas has been preserved to maintain the environmental integrity of the campuses.

- A paid parking system has been established to reduce vehicle traffic, aiming to prevent unnecessary vehicle entries.
- Free bicycle parking points have been created and their number increased to encourage bicycle use. This supports the zero-emission policy and promotes environmentally friendly alternatives for short-distance travel.
- A cooperation protocol has been signed between Trakya University and the Edirne Transportation Unit to encourage the use of public transportation. Under this protocol, university staff and students receive a discount on public transportation, providing the campus community with economical, accessible, and sustainable transportation options and aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of urban transportation.
- In the coming periods, it is planned to create car-free zones in campus centers and to improve pedestrian safety and the quality of open spaces.
- To enable students to actively and consciously use public transportation, the integration of campus transportation routes and public transportation maps via the Campus 4.0 digital platform is targeted. This application allows users to view campus routes and city-connected routes in a digital environment and plan their movements.
- Additionally, infrastructure preparations are ongoing to transition to a vehicle recognition system and launch license plate registration applications.

Transportation



Transportation initiatives to decrease private vehicles on campus

Trakya University has implemented several initiatives to reduce the use of private vehicles on campus. These include a shuttle and bus service operating within the campus, a paid parking system to discourage excessive car use, and free bicycle rental options for students and staff. Additionally, a vehicle license plate registration system has been introduced to help reduce vehicle congestion within campus areas. To further encourage sustainable transportation, the university offers discount agreements for its staff and students to promote the use of public transportation.

Pedestrian path policy on campus

The university has established a comprehensive pedestrian path policy to ensure safety and accessibility for all. Physical barriers are installed to separate vehicle roads from pedestrian walkways, and ramps as well as tactile guidance blocks are available for individuals with disabilities. Energy-efficient lighting systems have been installed in several parts of the campus, with plans to extend these improvements across all areas in the coming years. Trees are planted along pedestrian paths to provide shade, enhancing comfort and environmental quality. Moreover, directional signs and information boards are placed along walkways to improve navigation and accessibility throughout the campus.

Transportation



Trakya University demonstrates a strong, determined, and comprehensive commitment to environmental awareness and sustainable campus development through its extensive and forward-thinking transportation and sustainability policies. The university aims to reduce carbon emissions and improve campus quality of life through innovative practices such as free and accessible shuttle services, a gradual transition to zero-emission electric vehicles, and the development of bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Limiting the opening of new parking areas, implementing a paid parking system, and providing discounted public transportation options for staff and students significantly reduce private vehicle use and foster environmentally conscious transportation habits. Furthermore, the Campus 4.0 digital integration initiative enables users to plan their journeys more efficiently by integrating the campus transportation network with city transportation systems. It supports the development of smart mobility solutions. The planned car-free zones, license plate recognition systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and widespread bicycle parking areas serve not only transportation management but also the vision of creating a safe, inclusive, and ecologically balanced campus environment. In line with its “Bridge to the Future” vision, Trakya University continues to develop as a pioneering higher education institution that harmoniously blends technology, innovation, and environmental responsibility. The university's determined steps in sustainable transportation and green campus areas position it as an exemplary model that integrates sustainability, accessibility, and digital transformation into the core of academic and operational excellence, not only at the regional level but also across Turkey and the Balkans.

Transportation

Trakya University's comprehensive and inclusive transportation policies reflect its strong institutional commitment to environmental sustainability, public health, and climate action. Through the integration of free shuttle services, the gradual transition to zero-emission electric vehicles, and the promotion of bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, the university has successfully developed a low-carbon, accessible, and people-centered mobility system across all campuses. Initiatives such as limiting parking areas, implementing paid parking systems, and introducing license plate recognition technologies demonstrate a conscious effort to discourage private vehicle use while promoting alternative, environmentally responsible modes of transportation. Furthermore, collaboration with the Edirne Transportation Unit to provide discounted public transit options for staff and students exemplifies an effective partnership model that connects the university's sustainable mobility vision with the broader urban ecosystem.

In addition, enhancing pedestrian pathways, installing energy-efficient lighting, implementing green landscaping, and creating barrier-free access routes improve both environmental quality and the inclusivity of campus spaces. These measures not only reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality but also contribute to a healthier, safer environment that encourages physical activity and social interaction. By integrating these initiatives into its long-term planning, Trakya University advances multiple SDGs: promoting health and well-being (SDG 3) through active and accessible mobility; supporting sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) through smart and inclusive campus design; ensuring responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) by optimizing resource and energy use; and contributing to climate action (SDG 13) by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering environmentally conscious behaviors.

Ultimately, these comprehensive efforts position Trakya University as a leading example of sustainable campus mobility in higher education-one that not only addresses current environmental challenges but also builds a resilient and livable future in harmony with its "Bridge to the Future" vision.

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Education & Research

Number of scholarly publications on sustainability in a one-year period





Events related to sustainability

Between 2023 and 2025, Trakya University has demonstrated a remarkable increase in the number of events related to environment and sustainability. In 2023, a total of 74 sustainability-oriented events were organized, followed by 76 in 2024 - reflecting a consistent upward trend. However, the most significant growth occurred in 2025, with 135 ongoing events recorded so far, showing a substantial rise of nearly 80% compared to 2023. This notable increase clearly illustrates the university's growing institutional commitment to promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and community engagement across all campuses.

These activities encompass a broad range of initiatives, including seminars, workshops, conferences, awareness campaigns, green campus projects, and collaborations with local and international partners. The steady rise in event numbers also reflects the integration of sustainability principles into Trakya University's educational, cultural, and administrative frameworks. By expanding its outreach each year, the university not only strengthens its alignment with the UI GreenMetric "Education and Research" category but also reinforces its role as a regional leader in sustainability-driven education and social responsibility. This continuous momentum highlights the university's proactive stance in shaping a sustainable future through academic excellence, innovation, and active community participation.

Education & Research

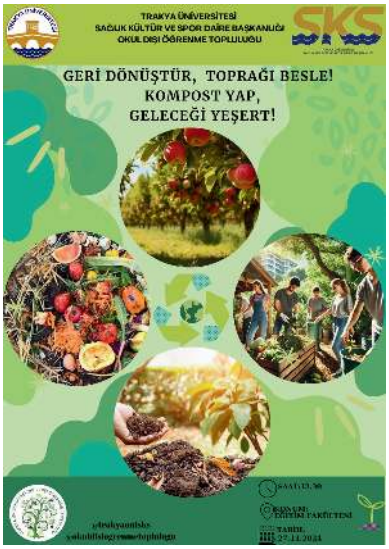






Activities organized by student organizations related to sustainability per year

At Trakya University, more than 20 sustainability-themed events are organized annually by student communities. These events include seminars, workshops, field activities, environmental awareness campaigns, recycling and tree-planting activities, as well as social responsibility projects, all of which contribute to strengthening students' sustainability awareness.







Education & Research

Cultural activities on campus

More than 10 cultural events are held annually on the campuses of Trakya University. These events include concerts, exhibitions, theater performances, traditional art workshops, festivals, and activities aimed at promoting cultural heritage; they enrich campus life and strengthen social and cultural interactions within the university community.





University sustainability program(s) with international collaborations

Trakya University has been actively strengthening its international collaborations in education, research, and sustainability. Under the coordination of the Directorate of Foreign Relations Application and Research Center, six active projects are currently being implemented: KA131 General Student and Staff Mobility, TESİAD Turkish Language Teaching Internship Consortium, Tourism Consortium, KA171 Partner Countries Project, as well as participation in the DUSK Engineering Consortium and the DEHAS Medical Consortium.

In addition, Trakya University was among the institutions selected for support under the TÜBİTAK-Bulgarian Agricultural Academy (AA) Bilateral Cooperation Programme 2570 / 2024 Call. Furthermore, as part of Erasmus+ staff mobility activities, 15 academic staff members participated in international projects for teaching and training purposes, contributing to the University's academic and institutional internationalization. Moreover, Trakya University researchers are actively involved in more than ten COST Actions, participating in European cooperation networks that promote sustainability, environmental innovation, and socio-ecological transformation. Through these engagements, the University strengthens its role in international scientific collaboration, knowledge exchange, and interdisciplinary research on sustainable development.

Education & Research

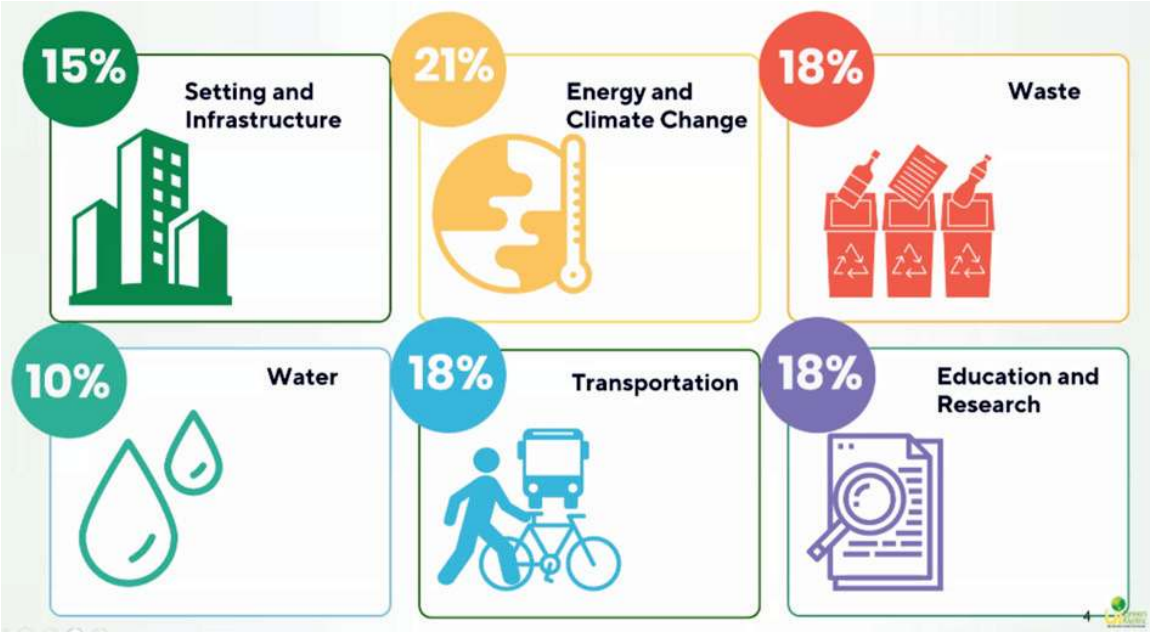




Sustainability community services projects organised and/or involving students

Trakya University implements numerous community service projects related to sustainability each year, many of which actively involve students from different faculties and disciplines. These projects aim to foster environmental awareness, social responsibility, and community engagement in alignment with the SDGs.

Through these interdisciplinary initiatives, Trakya University integrates sustainability principles into education, research, and community engagement. These activities demonstrate the University's strong commitment to fostering sustainability awareness and social responsibility across multiple domains, including SI, EC, WS, WR, TR, and ED.



Education & Research

Availability of unit(s) or office(s) that coordinate sustainability on campus

Trakya University is conducting coordinated efforts through research centers and units specializing in various disciplines to strengthen its sustainability vision at the institutional level. In this context;

- The Green Trakya Unit and Energy Management Unit coordinate sustainable campus initiatives, energy efficiency across the campus, renewable energy use, and the sustainable management of resources.
- In addition, the Environmental Issues Application and Research Center conducts academic studies on environmental risk analysis, climate change adaptation strategies, and sustainable development.
- The Natural Disaster Management Application and Research Center provides scientific contributions in the areas of disaster risk reduction, developing resilient settlement models, and crisis management.
- The Plant Breeding Application and Research Center conducts national and international research in the areas of agricultural sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and the development of climate-resilient species.
- In addition, the Edirne Rose and Red Rose Application and Research Center, unique to Trakya University, works on the conservation of regional plant diversity and the sustainable management of cultural landscape values.
- The Balkan Arboretum and EdTU Herbarium Application and Research Center plays a strategic role in documenting, protecting, and transferring botanical diversity to future generations.
- The university contributes to the country's vision not only in terms of academics and research but also in waste management, recycling, and environmentally friendly practices. The regulations and practices developed in this context enable campus life to be reshaped in line with sustainable principles and support national environmental policies. Therefore, Trakya University, together with its units operating at different scales in the field of sustainability, is positioned as a strategic actor on the path to achieving the 2030 SDGs, contributing to both the academic community and local and national stakeholders.

Education & Research

Trakya University adopts a comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainability that encompasses education, research, community engagement, cultural development, and institutional governance. The university's wide range of academic studies, international collaborations, student-led initiatives, and community service projects collectively demonstrate a strong institutional commitment to creating an environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and culturally enriched learning ecosystem. Through these multidimensional efforts, Trakya University has successfully integrated sustainability into its operational and academic structure, transforming it into a living model of responsible higher education.

This holistic vision is closely aligned with several Goals (SDGs). In particular, SDG 4 (Quality Education) is embodied in the university's focus on equipping students with sustainability-oriented knowledge and values through seminars, workshops, and interdisciplinary learning opportunities. SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) is reflected in the university's efforts to create a livable, culturally vibrant, and environmentally friendly campus environment that serves as a microcosm of sustainable urban development. SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) is advanced through initiatives promoting efficient resource use, waste reduction, recycling, and responsible production practices. At the same time, SDG 13 (Climate Action) is supported through research, education, and infrastructure measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Finally, SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is reinforced through international cooperation programs such as Erasmus+and COST Actions, as well as bilateral research projects, which strengthen global knowledge exchange and collaborative problem-solving in sustainability science.

By aligning its strategies and practices with these global goals, Trakya University not only enhances its academic and operational excellence but also contributes meaningfully to the regional, national, and international sustainability agenda. The university stands as a leading example of how higher education institutions can bridge scientific innovation, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility-serving as a true "Bridge to the Future" in advancing sustainable development.

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