

IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION**
and **PRODUCTION**



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University
Sustainability Office**

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SDG Icons

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

Sustainable Development Report Maps

<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/map>

SDG Statics

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/progress-midpoint/>

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

FOREWORD

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 with the mission statement “a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030” have become guiding principles for all of us as countries, institutions, and individuals today. In this context, the new vision for universities has now shifted from the older scholastic concept of education solely oriented toward professional training to an understanding that prioritizes human and social responsibility. Therefore, universities are central to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Thus, as İstanbul Medeniyet University,

We always consider sustainable development goals in our university’s high-level strategies, organize our management and implementation processes in line with these principles, and follow up on our activities and process of sustainability through reports for continuous improvement. **(OPERATIONS)**

While we help our students gain professional and personal skills and qualifications, we are raising future leaders, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, teachers, and more importantly, individuals with the awareness of creating a better world through the sustainability trainings we include in our course contents. **(LEARNING)**

We carry out a wide range of activities and events to share our knowledge, experience, and best practices about the implementation of SDGs with our students, staff, and local community with the ultimate aim of building a more conscious society. **(EVENTS)**

In 2022, IMU Sustainability Office was established to assume the role to place “Sustainable Development Goals” in the center of our institutional practices, educational planning, and research activities and to lead toward the realization of these goals. IMU Sustainability Office plays a significant part in developing our institutional strategies for SDGs, planning and carrying out our related activities and reporting on our progress. In addition to its contribution to institutional development, the Office also organizes public training programs and workshops.

Our Sustainability Office has planned to create annual sustainability development goals progress reports that will include all the goals and all areas of activity of our university so that we can see our progress in achieving SDGs to create new and better strategies and the report you are reading has been issued for the year 2024 as a result of these efforts. I thank everyone who have contributed to the creation of the report and especially Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, Lect. Zehra SAVAN and Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR, who have edited and published all the content for our SDG website and our reports. I hope that our efforts will inspire new ideas, actions, and collaborations to take action for a more sustainable and livable future.

Prof. Dr. Yaşar BÜLBÜL

Vice-Rector and Sustainability Office Coordinator
İstanbul Medeniyet University

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assesses the contribution of universities around the world to sustainable development goals, has been an important source of motivation for us to see our place in the world and measure our contribution with all the activities we carry out for sustainable development as a higher education institution. As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we were included in THE Impact Ranking for the first time in 2021 by applying with only 4 SDGs, while we applied with 11 SDGs for 2024, being ranked 601-800 in the global ranking. The table below shows IMU's continued rise on this ranking.

Sustainable Development Goals	THE Impact Rankings 2025	THE Impact Rankings 2024	THE Impact Rankings 2023	THE Impact Rankings 2022	THE Impact Ranking 2021
General Ranking	401-600	601-800	801-1000	1001+	1001+
SDG 1 No Poverty	801-1000	601-800	601-800	-	-
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	301-400	301-400	401-600	401+	301-400
SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being	401-600	301-400	301-400	401-600	401-600
SDG 4 Quality Education	801-1000	1001-1500	801-1000	801-1000	601-800
SDG 5 Gender Equality	1001-1500	801-1000	801-1000	-	-
SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	601-800	401-600	401-600	401-600	-
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	601-800	801-1000	601-800	601+	-
SDG 10 Reduce Inequalities	401-600	401-600	401-600	401-600	-
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	401-600	601-800	401-600	601+	-
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production	101-200	201-300	201-300	-	-
SDG 15 Life on Land	101-200				
SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals	301-400	401-600	601-800	1001+	601-800

12

**RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION**





Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use.

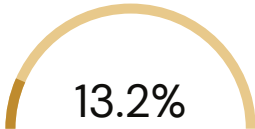
The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging

industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.

A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.

1.05
BILLION

metric ton of food waste generated in 2022

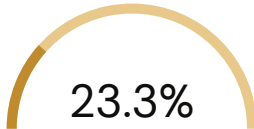


13.2%

of food produced globally was lost after harvest and during transport, storage, wholesale and processing in 2021

62
MILLION

metric ton of e-waste generated in 2022



23.3%

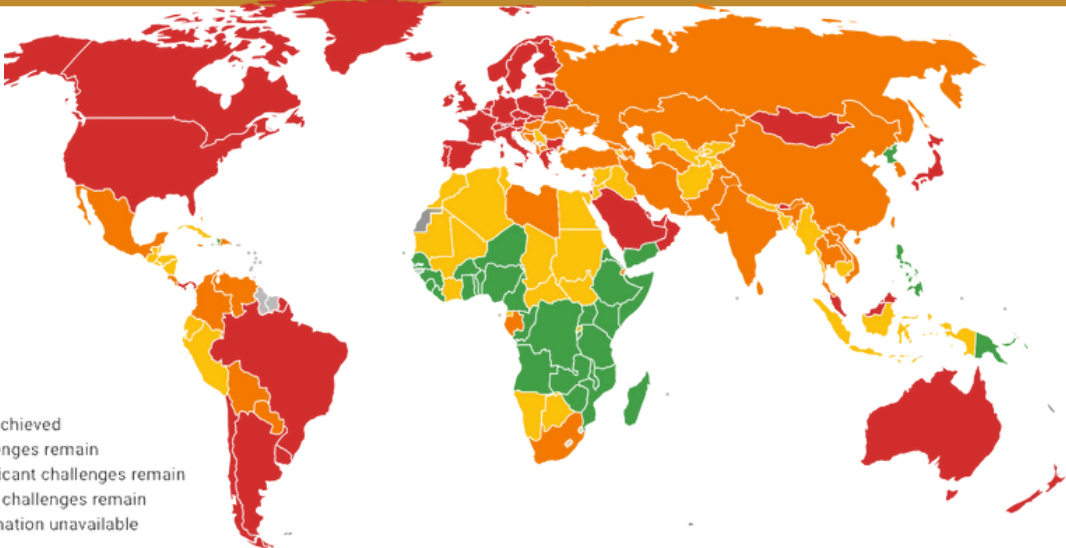
global interior material consumption growth rate from 2015 to 2022

530
POLICIES

number of policies related to sustainable consumption and production were submitted across 71 countries as of 2024

Legend

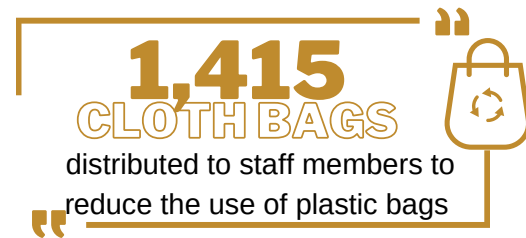
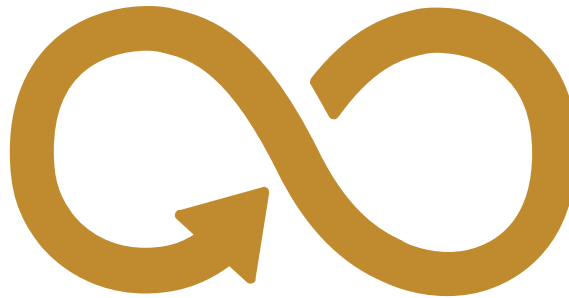
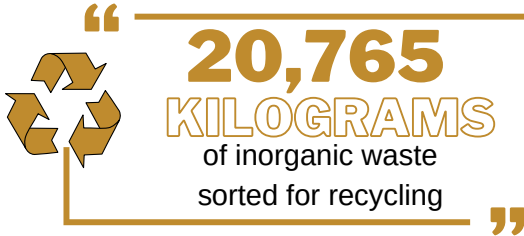
- SDG achieved
- Challenges remain
- Significant challenges remain
- Major challenges remain
- Information unavailable



101-
200

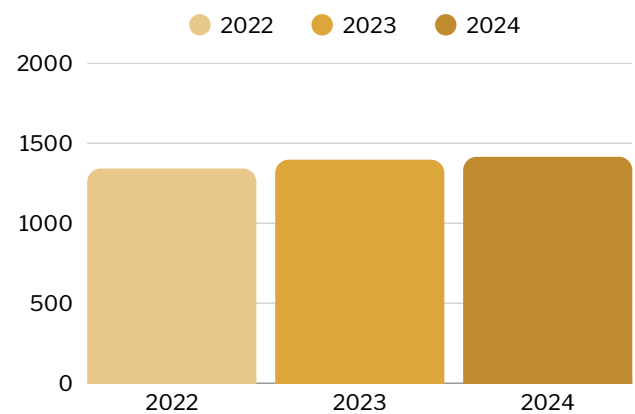
"Responsible Consumption and Production"

Category 2025 ranking



reports shared each year
presenting progress on all
SDGs

Cloth Bags Distributed to Staff



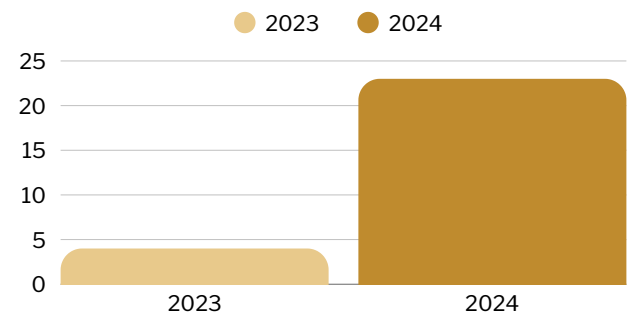
IMU distributes cloth bags to staff to reduce the amount of single-use plastic bags that our staff will use in a year.

The number of distributed cloth bags increased from 1397 (2023) to 1415 in 2024.

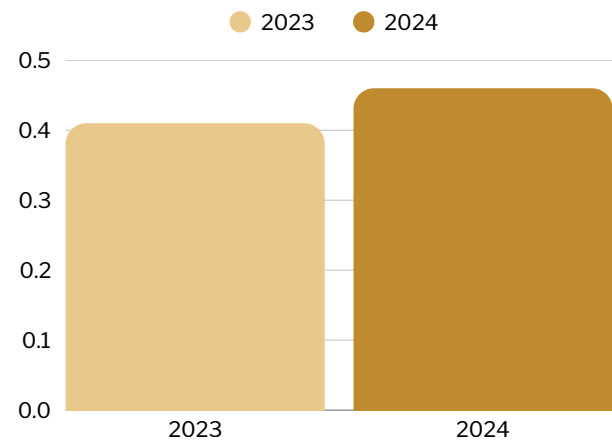
Plastic waste prevention increased from 1,725kg (2023) to 1,747kg and greenhouse gas production prevention increased from 7,078kg (2023) to 7,169kg with this application.

IMU on-site recycling&upcycling workshops were established in 2023, and a total of 4 kg of waste was recycled in these workshops during the year. With the progress made in years, a total of 23 kg of waste was recycled in these on-site workshops in 2024, thus preventing 4 kg of greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, there was a **475% increase in the amount of recycled waste.**

Treated Waste Amount in On-site Recycling&Upcycling Workshops



Generated Food Waste per Capita



IMU has developed numerous policies to reduce food waste in campus dining halls and cafeterias. As a result of these policies, food waste per campus member has decreased from 0.46 to 0.41 in last year. Thus, over the years, the impact of these food waste reduction policies has resulted in an **11% reduction in food waste.**

Ethical Sourcing Policies

Istanbul Medeniyet University is committed to sourcing all the food and supplies for its campus community in an ethical manner and has policies to ensure that all the workers involved in providing the services being sourced are safe and treated fairly in accordance with the relevant legislation in our country, and environmental and social impacts are taken into consideration during the sourcing process.

In all our outsourcing activities, all the measures are diligently taken to avoid any harm to people and the environment by adhering to the relevant legislation. To provide an example, [our contract for with our catering service providers](#) includes specific clauses imposing certain obligations on the service provider to use locally grown, healthy ingredients for the meals that conform to the national standards for food production as set forth by the Turkish Standards Institute; to produce healthy menus including vegetarian meals that meet the daily calorie and protein needs of the users to protect their health; to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the campus kitchen and to perform regular health inspections both for the food and the production environment as well as regular disinfection applications for pest control in order to protect the health of the users and the production staff employed by the service provider; to perform routine health checks on the production and service staff for infectious diseases; to present all the inspection reports regularly to the university administration; to treat the staff employed by the provider fairly as per the national legislation on workers such as the Labor Act, including

payment of at least the minimum wage, insurance premiums, and additional payment for overtime work and assigning duties that are appropriate for each worker's work title; to ensure the health and safety of the production and service staff as per provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Law; and adhering to all the laws and regulations pertaining to the minimization, collection, sorting out, and disposal of waste.

Policy on Waste Disposal and Waste Tracking

Istanbul Medeniyet University adheres to the provisions of the [Zero Waste Regulation](#) for waste disposal. In 2019, the university joined the Zero Waste Program carried out under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey as part of the Zero Waste Regulation to contain waste in line with the sustainable development goals and to leave a clean Turkey for future generations.

In order to implement the Zero Waste program in all our campus areas with maximum efficiency, meetings were held with all our academic and administrative staff for the purposes of informing them and raising awareness. In these training sessions, trainers assigned from Istanbul Provincial Directorate for Environment and Urbanization by the Governorship of Istanbul delivered informative presentations to our staff members about the implementation of the Zero Waste program and underlined what to do for correct applications.

OPERATIONS

In this context, we implement the **Zero Waste Program** which involves preventing wastage, using the resources more efficiently, reviewing the reasons for waste formation, preventing or minimizing waste formation, and collecting and recovering waste at source separately. In this context, we removed the waste bins from the university's indoor areas and started to collect and sort recyclable waste in six categories. The waste sorted out at identified points in our campus areas are regularly delivered to the relevant municipal authorities for disposal, who also measure and report the amount of waste we collected.

In 2024, we generated a total amount of 20,765 kilograms of sorted inorganic waste in all our campus areas and delivered them to the municipal authorities to be sent to landfill or recycled.

“ **20,765**
KILOGRAMS
of inorganic waste
sorted for recycling ”



Recyclable Waste Boxes

Waste Tracking

As mentioned above, in IMU campuses, waste is collected by separating it in waste bins divided into 6 categories. These collected wastes are weighed with digital scales and delivered to the relevant municipalities with which we have agreements for waste treatment at certain periods and delivery slips are received. The official waste information documented in these slips is uploaded to the **IMU Waste Monitoring System Database**, which is accessible to all authorized units on the IMU server, by the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department in order to provide real-time tracking. Waste data is collected to perform analysis on a campus basis, a month basis and a waste basis.

The IMU Sustainability Office adds to this database the amount of waste recycled as a result of on-site recycling activities. In addition, the environmental impacts of recycled and up-cycled waste are shared with the public through the added to **the sustainability website**. The Office also analyzes the efficiency of the 3R programs implemented in all campus areas annually with the help of data provided via these databases, and reports them through SDG progress reports.

There are sufficient waste bins in all buildings and open areas of all campuses, and these bins are also placed in newly constructed buildings. The Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs tracks the amount of waste on a campus basis through the IMU Waste Monitoring System database and places new waste bins if additional bins are needed.

“ **5,738 KG**
HAZARDOUS
waste generated
in 2024 ”

9

The medical waste delivered to Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Waste Management are transported in licensed vehicles to Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Sterilization Facility for Medical Waste and Medical Waste Incineration Facility and are disposed of in sterile conditions without causing any damage to human health and the environment.



Hazardous Waste Collection Boxes

Waste batteries (including zinc batteries, alkaline batteries and lithium-ion batteries), which pose a risk of toxic substances passing into the soil and water due to the heavy metals they contain, are collected in a separate box in our university areas and delivered to authorized municipalities for special disposal.



IMU Waste Battery Collection Boxes

Policy for Minimisation of Plastic Use and Disposable Items

As an institution, IMU adhere to the provisions of the Zero Waste Regulation for minimization of plastic use and disposable items and reduction of waste in general in line with the sustainable development goals. Thus, issues such as reducing the generation of waste and chiefly of plastic, which greatly damages aquatic, terrestrial, and aerial ecosystems, and recycling plastic waste form an integral part of our university's vision. In this context, we removed the waste bins from the university's indoor areas and started to collect and sort recyclable waste and chiefly plastic waste in six categories. Plastics that are thus saved from becoming garbage are delivered to the relevant municipal authorities for recycling.

Istanbul Medeniyet University primarily follows a policy of reducing consumption to reduce waste. Therefore, certain strategies have been implemented to gradually reduce single-use plastics in the campus areas. For instance, our contract with the catering service provider for our lunch services contains a clause on serving meals in chinaware and using metal cutlery. Thanks to such practices, we prevent the use of single-use plastics in eating utensils and thereby reduce plastic waste generation in all our campus areas.

OPERATIONS

Istanbul Medeniyet University carries out practices that will contribute to the plastic reduction targets throughout Turkey. For example, in order to contribute to the goal of the **Packaging Waste Control Regulation** of 2017, which aims to reduce the annual use of plastic bags per capita to no more than 40, cloth bags are distributed to our staff members every year to be used as an alternative to plastic bags.

In 2024, IMU distributed a total of 1,415 fabric bags to its staff. With this application, which reduces the use of single-use plastic bags that our staff will use in a year, 1,747kg of plastic waste and 7,169kg of greenhouse gas production were prevented in 1 year.

“**1,415**
CLOTH BAGS
distributed to staff members to
reduce the use of plastic bags”



IMU Cloth Bags that are Distributed to Staff

Waste Collection, Disposal and Minimization Policies Extended to Service Providers and Suppliers

IMU primarily follows a policy of reducing consumption to reduce waste and extend this policy to its service providers and suppliers.

For extending our policy for minimizing the amount of waste generated in IMU, our contract with the catering service provider contains a clause on serving meals in chinaware and using metal cutlery to prevent the use of single-use plastics in eating utensils and thereby reduce **plastic waste** generation in all campuses.

In 2024, this policy was extended to the newly opened restaurants and cafes within our campus areas and its scope was expanded. In all these areas offering catering services, chinaware plates are used and metal cutlery sets are offered.



Lunch-related Waste Minimisation Policies

Istanbul Medeniyet University expressly specified in its contract with the catering service provider that all the meals to be served to the university's students and staff shall be cooked and prepared in the campus kitchen on the premises and the service provider is fully responsible for collecting and containing the **waste vegetable oils** generated during cooking, distribution and consumption of the food as per the **"Regulation on the Control of Waste Vegetable Oils"** issued by the T.R. Ministry of Environment and Urbanization on the legal technical principles and standards for the collection and disposal of waste vegetable oils without causing any harm to the environment. Our contractors are obligated to have contracts with the licensed waste oil recovery facilities and collectors with temporary storage permits and are to deliver all the waste vegetable oils they collect to these licensed facilities and firms. They are also obligated to dispose of non-recoverable waste oils in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on the Control of Waste Vegetable Oils.

In our university, we have oil filters installed in the dishwashing sites in our campus kitchen and other facilities to prevent the oily wastewater from polluting the discharged water and the service provider is also responsible for regularly cleaning these filters and delivering the oil waste collected to ISTAC Inc., an affiliation of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality that is in charge of waste management. ISTAC Inc. then converts the collected waste oil into renewable energy sources such as biodiesel and biogas in its recovery facilities.

Food waste can emerge at any stage of the process whereby food is delivered from the producer to the consumer; i.e., production, handling and storage, processing, distribution, and consumption. As IMU, we seek to develop diverse operations for these different stages in order to reduce the food waste generated by our campus community.

To minimize the food waste generated during transport, we have our catering service provider produce our lunches in our own campus kitchen. Thereby, we prevent the food waste that would be otherwise generated from production to consumption stages.



IMU Campus Kitchen

In order to minimize the consumption-stage food waste, our salads and other side dishes are served in a way that our students and staff can get the sufficient amount they can consume, instead of portioning them ourselves in our dining halls. Thereby, we prevent a great deal of food waste.

OPERATIONS

Our catering service provider is also legally obligated to sort out all the waste and garbage generated during food production and service, to transport them to the waste collection sites assigned by the municipality, and to take all the required measures to adhere to the legislation on waste disposal and the Zero Waste Regulation.

In addition, all cafes and restaurants that offer catering services within our campus areas have “organic waste” bins, one of our 6 waste bins. Our campus members who bring and eat their own food in these areas also separate the food waste generated through these boxes.

According to the monitoring activities carried out by IMU, after all minimization policies applied, the amount of organic waste collected from all campus dining halls, canteens and organic waste collection boxes within campus buildings in 2024 was 6,905kg.



The same obligations also apply to all other service providers and suppliers of the university, including our contractors for our cafeterias, the stationery store, and all the construction work inside the campus areas.

Proportion of Waste Recycled

The wastes generated by the activities of Istanbul Medeniyet University are recycled with two different approaches: on-site and off-site.

On-site recycling of waste is carried out by IMU Sustainability Office and Sustainability Student Club. In these activities, some of the paper and organic wastes generated within the campus areas are recycled on-site. Some of the organic waste is recycled through hot composting and bokashi composting practices carried out by our sustainability teams and plant fertiliser is produced and used in food cultivation within our campus areas. Waste paper generated within the campus areas is recycled and new paper is produced in the paper workshop established by the Sustainability Student Club. Detailed information can be found in the “events” section of the report.

Landfill Policy

The amount of segregated waste left over from on-site recycling operations; in accordance with IMU's landfill policies, are regularly delivered to the relevant municipal authorities to subjected to a more comprehensive recycling and disposal disposal. The amount of waste collected and delivered to the municipality is also measured and reported. The total amount of waste collected by separation and delivered for recycling, uploaded to the IMU Waste Monitoring System Database, which is accessible to all authorized units on the IMU server.

Publication of Sustainability Reports

IMU published its first sustainable development goals annual report for 5 different goals for 2020 thanks to the efforts of the International Performance Development Coordination Office.

With the establishment of the IMU Sustainability Office in 2021, annual sustainability development goals progress reports, which include all goals, have started to be prepared every year. Thanks to these reports, the monitoring provided in achieving the targets has become measurable and enabled the creation of new performance improvement measures. IMU shares the sustainability progress reports it prepares publicly on its websites.

Sustainability Office also opened up a separate website for the achievement of SDGs and a social media account to inform the campus community and the general public about the institution's activities toward sustainable development goals. Thanks to the SDG IMU website and social media account, the activities carried out in our university which contribute to achieving the SDGs can be shared with other researchers, our stakeholders, and the public along with their results following the activity and before the end-of-year reporting period and also, the training programs and events pertaining to SDGs can be announced to all those concerned.



IMU Sustainability Progress Reports

LEARNING

Learning processes are key in achieving SDGs. Thus, universities play a critical role both by training professionals who will prioritize SDGs in their future practices and by increasing local, national, and global capacity to successfully achieve SDGs. As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are aware of our critical role and therefore, we primarily inform our students, the leaders and decision-makers of the future, about the Sustainable Development Goals through course contents, co-curricular activities and student club activities and strengthen their awareness. For this purpose, each of our faculties and departments prepares SDG-related course contents, including courses that address the Sustainable Development Goals holistically, as well as specific contributions that can be made by the expertise of the relevant professional field in which they provide training. In 2024, 21 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-12 were given at IMU.

Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course
Education Sciences	ECE007 - Environmental Education and Sustainability in Early Childhood
Engineering and Natural Sciences	BYM313 - Industrial Ecology and Recycling
	END406 - Supply Chain and Logistics
	BYM416 - Micropollutants, Treatment and Effects on Human Health
	BYM312 - Applications in Environmental Biotechnology
	BYM406 - Introduction to Environmental Biotechnology
Law	HUK342 - Environmental Law
Political Science	ULİ462 - Environmental Problems and the World
	IKT418 - Environmental Economy
	MLY411 - Environmental Protection and Taxation
	SBK214 - Urbanization and Environmental Management
Tourism	TİŞ224 - Sustainable Tourism
	GMS309 - Food Purchasing and Storage
Vision Lectures	IMU071- Introduction to Sustainability

On-Site Recycling

IMU Sustainability Student Club, in collaboration with the Sustainability Office, has ongoing social responsibility projects named as **“On-site Recycling&Upcycling Workshops”** since 2023 to recycle and upcycle the waste that is collected and sorted within our campus areas. **In 2024, a total of 7.5 kg of paper, 9.13 kg of plastic, 3.5 kg of fabric and 2.76 kg of aluminum was recycled or upcycled in these workshops.**

Reducing the Amount of Paper Waste

In IMU there are paper recycling workshops ongoing to reduce the amount of paper waste. As a part of these workshops, a **“Handmade Paper Workshop with Traditional Method”** was organized on Friday, March 29, 2024 as a “March 30 International Zero Waste Day” event in cooperation with IMU Sustainability Office. The workshop was held at the Sustainability Office and was open to all Istanbul Medeniyet University students, staff and the public. During and after the workshop, approximately 200g of used paper was recycled and turned into paper.

In the workshop, the participants were informed about the history of paper and the traditional methods used in paper production in Anatolia, and had the opportunity to put into practice the knowledge they gained about how waste paper can be recycled and re-papered.

After the theoretical information about paper and traditional Turkish paper production methods, the participants were informed about

how waste paper can be recycled with the traditional method in line with the goal of the IMU Sustainability Student Club on recycling waste paper generated in the campus areas.

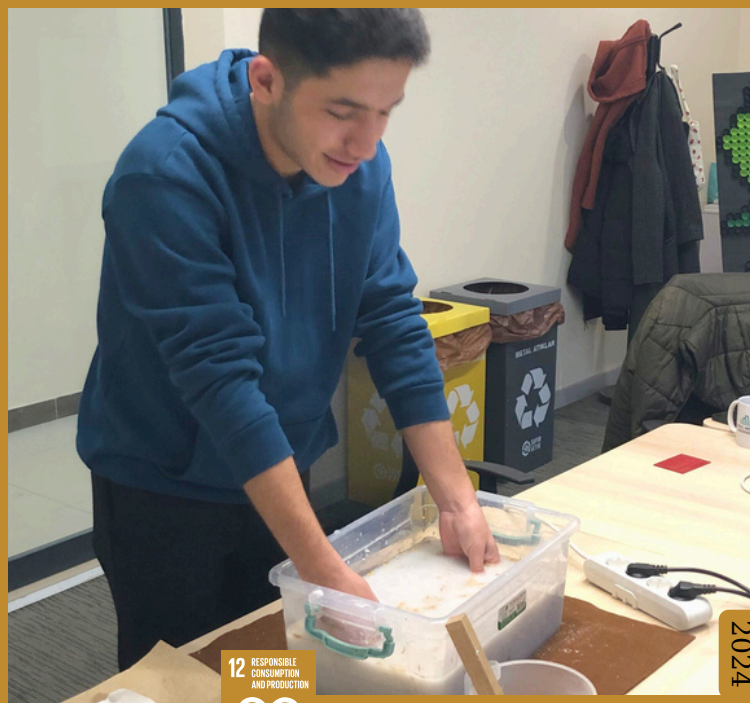
It was emphasized that the method is an important part of the circular economy with recycling and reuse. It was pointed out that it will contribute to the low carbon economy by preventing the carbon emission that will occur due to transportation, especially during the transportation of waste to waste collection areas and the transportation of new paper produced from factories to sales areas, and that it will have less impact on climate change by preventing energy consumption and thus carbon emission from both transportation and production. In addition, since the waste paper used may contain dyes, it was emphasized that the water used in paper production should not directly meet with the soil.

In the second part of the workshop, reusable paper was produced by recycling waste paper generated in the campus areas of our university. To be used in the implementation phase of the workshop, the IMU Sustainability Student Club visited the offices on our campuses before the event and collected waste paper.

Thanks to the workshop, in line with the zero waste policy of our university, the amount of waste production in the campus areas of our university has been reduced, while resource efficiency has been achieved by reusing paper.

EVENTS

UMI



"Handmade Paper Workshops with Traditional Method"



With paper produced in these paper recycling workshops, other products were produced in different recycling and upcycling workshops including calendars, bookmarks and an upcycled paper art project.

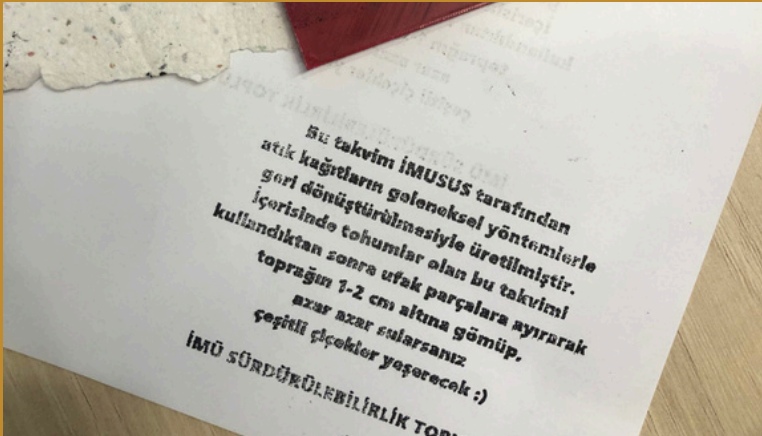
In one of these workshops, IMU Sustainability Student Club (IMUSUS) organised two different paper recycling workshops in November 2024 and produced the first products of the **'IMUSUS 2025 Seeded Calendar'**, the first product planned to be produced in the 2024-2025 academic year. On November 27 and 28, the calendars' bases were created with the "Upcycling Paper Workshop", while in the workshop held on November 29, 2024; calendars were produced by printing on these papers. In the workshops held on November 27 and 28, old calendars and used papers collected by the student club from the administrative units and office areas of our university were recycled and seeded papers were produced. During the two-day workshops, a total of 350 grams of waste paper was recycled on site. On November 29th, in the 'Calendar Workshop', the first samples were prepared by prototyping a special calendar to be used for the university from the paper recycled in the workshops held on the first two days. In these activities, not only the recycling of paper was ensured, but also the sustainability awareness of the participants was aimed to be increased. These activities contributed to the zero waste policy on campus and aimed to minimise resource consumption.

In another workshop, IMU Sustainability Club used old calendars collected from employees at the end of 2023 to prepare the seed cards. The collected calendars were recycled and to make new paper during workshops held at the Sustainability Office on March 6, 7 and 8, 2024. Various wildflower seeds were added to the paper. The gifts were completed by adding the seed cards to the **bookmarks** designed by the Sustainability Office team. Club members presented flower seed cards to the female staff and female students of our University to emphasize the importance of women's participation in the workforce on March 8, International Women's Day.

On the other hand, IMUSUS started to upcycle paper into **works of art**. For its first work, the team used the paper packaging of plastic waste-free Lazika teas distributed to our campus members within the framework of Plastic-Free July activities and started to design the image of a girl picking tea, the symbol of Lazika Tea. The first upcycling workshop for the planned activities was held on November 28, 2024, hosted by the Sustainability Office. The event, which was open to club members, was attended by 5 students and the staff of the Sustainability Office. In the workshop, which was led by Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, research assistant at the Sustainability Office, firstly, the draft drawing of the work to be prepared was carried out. Afterwards, the artwork was started to be created by using the tea packages collected since July and categorised by cutting according to their colours.

EVENTS

IMI



Products with paper produced in the recycled paper workshop



2024
19

Reducing the Amount of Plastic Waste

IMU Sustainability Student Club (IMUSUS) also has established a **“Plastic Recycling Workshop”** for on-site recycling of solid wastes generated within our campus areas. In the plastic recycling workshop established in the BILTAM Building, two PETMachine devices were installed in cooperation with the Tylman Design company of Polish origin and recycling works were initiated.

The first plastic recycling workshop of the project, **“Pet Filament Workshop”**, was held on Wednesday, October 02, 2024 at the Sustainability Office. The workshop, which attracted great interest, was open to the participation of all our academic and administrative staff, students and the public. After the users obtained basic information about the use of the machine, the application phase of the workshop began. Pet water bottles collected by IMUSUS were upcycled into filament. During the workshop, 150 gr. waste plastic was recycled. In the continuation of the workshop, the participants produced key rings consisting of the initials of their names with the help of 3D printers from these filaments. The objects produced by the participants were presented to them as a gift.

Throughout 2024, IMUSUS recycled single-use PET bottle waste collected on campus and transformed into PET filament; and various products were produced from these filaments and presented to our campus community.

The project team completed the installation of the machines in October and started to produce new products with the materials they recycled in November and inform the club members about the production process. The **“Upcycling PET Filament”** workshops held on November 27, 28 and 29, 2024 were open to club members. A total of 19 participants attended the events. During the 3-day workshops, a total of 470 grams of PET bottles were recycled into filaments. Snowflake-shaped new year ornaments were produced from these filaments in the workshops and given as gifts to our students. Via these workshops, the participants were shown the tangible benefits of recycling, while at the same time contributing to raising awareness on sustainability.

IMUSUS also produced the bases for the calendars it prepared for 2025, using filaments produced in PET recycling workshops. The prototype of the “IMUSUS Seed Calendar”, which was prepared as the final product of the project, was completed in the workshops organized within the scope of the 4th Sustainability Week activities in December 2024. In addition to the paper production process, the plastic materials used in the printing of the calendar lettering and the bottom bases of the calendars were produced by recycling the plastic bottle wastes generated within the campus areas by the project team in the plastic recycling workshop established. Therefore, not only in calendar papers, but also in all product design and production processes, the project focuses on circular economy and adopts a zero waste policy.

EVENTS

UMI



PET Recycling Workshops



2024

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Reducing the Amount of Organic Waste

Within the scope of the Zero Waste Program, IMU has removed the garbage bins from all closed areas and replaced them with six-category recycling bins that allow separating recyclable waste. In this context, organic waste is also collected by separating it.

Our catering service provider is legally obligated to sort out all the waste and garbage generated during food production and service, to transport them to the waste collection sites assigned by the municipality, and to take all the required measures to adhere to the legislation on waste disposal and the Zero Waste Regulation. The same obligations also apply to all other service providers and suppliers of the university, including our contractors for our cafeterias.

At Istanbul Medeniyet University, organic waste is treated in many different ways:

1. Some of the food waste generated in our dining halls and canteens is given as food to the pets we care for on our campus. Approximately 17.5kg of the food waste generated in 2024 was given as food to our campus animals daily.

2. IMU Sustainability Office and Sustainability Student Club develop projects to reduce the production of organic waste in our campus areas and to turn these wastes into usable plant fertilizers. Our sustainability teams have started collecting coffee waste produced in our campus areas for recycling. After drying, the collected used **coffee grounds** are used in the composting practices carried out by the Sustainability Student Club, and the excess coffee grounds are packaged and shared with the city residents who practice composting.

According to monitoring studies, 0.006 tons of coffee pulp was collected to be used in composting studies in 2024.

3. IMU Sustainability Club collects some of the organic waste such as flowers and seeds from the campus green areas and reuses them. The flower seeds collected from the **flowers in the campus gardens are turned into seed paper** in the paper workshop, which produces new paper by recycling institutional waste paper. These seed papers are decorated with dried flowers from our campus gardens and 2025 calendars are prepared. In addition, over 500 bookmarks were prepared using seed papers and dried flowers, and distributed to our students, staff and event participants throughout 2024.

4. Food waste remaining from all these processes and organic waste collected from organic waste collection boxes are collected separately and delivered to İSTAÇ company, which is responsible for the waste management of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, with which we have an agreement for waste recycling, and to the relevant municipalities and sent to recycling facilities. These sent organic wastes are composted in these facilities and converted into electrical energy.

5. Organic waste generated during meal preparation in university cafeterias, as well as organic waste collected from campus cafés, is delivered to the relevant municipalities in accordance with the waste management agreements established by the university. These municipalities ensure that the collected waste is properly processed and converted into compost or biogas.

EVENTS

IMU



"Compost Trainings" in 2023



Reducing the Use of Single-use Plastics

Since 2022, IMU has been carrying out the “**Plastic-Free July**” social responsibility project to reduce the amount of single-use plastic waste. Within the scope of the 2024 activities of the “Plastic-Free July” project, IMUSUS challenged people to remove a single-use plastic product they use in their daily lives every day for a month and step into a plastic-free life with IMU Sustainability Office. During the challenge, environmental awareness was raised by providing information about the waste generation and environmental pollution caused by these plastic products every day through social media accounts. Following each of these informative social media posts, people were presented with sustainable alternatives with natural ingredients and packaging that do not produce plastic waste, which they could use instead of that particular plastic-containing product. IMUSUS has collaborated with **18 companies** in Turkey and the world that are pioneers in sustainability and have sustainable product labels in order to channel this awareness to consumer behavior. Thanks to this collaboration, on certain days of the challenge, with the sponsorship support provided by the companies, sustainable products were presented to our students, staff and the public in order to create a new behavioral change in their daily lives. With this social responsibility project 495.2kg of plastic waste was avoided. The prevention of this amount of plastic waste also prevented the release of 5,279kg of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



“Plastic-Free July” Social Media Posts

EVENTS

Awareness Raising Activities on Responsible Production and Consumption

IMU Sustainability Office shares informative and reminding posts on its website and social media accounts to encourage our students, staff AND general public to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost practices. In addition to information about the environmental problems caused by waste today, these posts provide practical suggestions on how people can reduce the amount of waste they produce in their daily lives. In addition, IMU's waste reduction policies are included in each information, and our students and staff are reminded at what points and with what practices they can implement the 3R rule within campus areas.

