

# IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-6 CLEAN WATER and SANITATION**



6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



<div>1</div> <div>NO POVERTY</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div>ZERO HUNGER</div> <div></div>	<div>3</div> <div>GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</div> <div></div>	<div>4</div> <div>QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div></div>
<div>5</div> <div>GENDER EQUALITY</div> <div></div>	<div>7</div> <div>AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</div> <div></div>	<div>8</div> <div>DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</div> <div></div>
<div>10</div> <div>REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div> <div></div>	<div>11</div> <div>SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</div> <div></div>	<div>12</div> <div>RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div>CLIMATE ACTION</div> <div></div>
<div>14</div> <div>LIFE BELOW WATER</div> <div></div>	<div>15</div> <div>LIFE ON LAND</div> <div></div>	<div>16</div> <div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div> <div></div>	<div>17</div> <div>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</div> <div></div>

# SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET  
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University  
Sustainability Office**

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**Published**  
November, 2025

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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/>

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

6

# CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



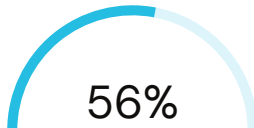
Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent. More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages.

Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential. Ensuring universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of services for over two billion. In 2015, 4.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services (with adequately disposed or treated excreta) and 2.3 billion lacked even basic sanitation.

1,8

BILLION

people had no on-premises drinking water in 2022

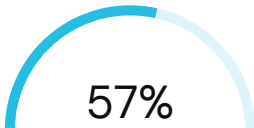


of countries had good water quality in 2023

1,000

CHILDREN

die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases each day



in 2023, implementing integrated water resources management only edged up to 57 percent

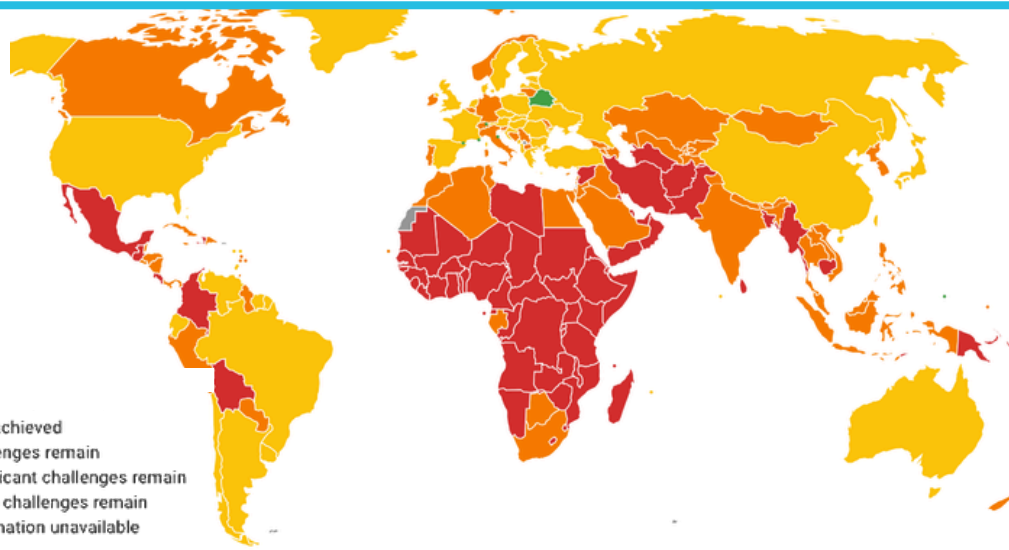
2,2

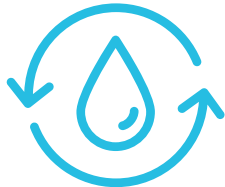
BILLION

people lacked safely managed drinking water in 2022

Legend

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





gray water  
recovery system



waste water filtration system



promoting conscious water  
usage both on campus and in  
wider community



water-saving solutions for all  
wet floor volumes

“**255,415 M<sup>3</sup>**  
**WATER**  
consumed in our campuses in  
2024”



# OPERATIONS

## Water Consumption Tracking

With the awareness that water is the foundation for life and is not an unlimited resource, IMU created a comprehensive water conservation strategy and tracks the level of consumed water regularly.

In order to maintain the water conservation strategy, IMU primarily analyses the water consumption numbers. In IMU the consumed water amount is analyzed through the smart water meters and meter reading bill slips. The official water consumption information documented in these slips is uploaded to the **IMU Water Monitoring System**, 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. At the end of the year, the IMU Sustainability Office analyses and reports the water consumption of the relevant year with data analytics tools. The IMU Sustainability Office evaluates the annual water consumption data in the database and produces various strategies to reduce the water use for the following year.

“ **255,415 M**  
WATER  
consumed in our campuses in  
2024 ”

The amount of water consumed in all campuses of our university in 2024 was **255,415 m3**.

## Wastewater Treatment

Istanbul Medeniyet University cleans the wastewater inside the campus areas using certain *filtering systems* before discharging it. For instance, 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.

Wastewater from all campus use is collected by the wastewater network and dispatched to the treatment facilities of Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (İSKİ), which is in charge of treating wastewater using various systems from preliminary treatment to advanced biological treatment so that wastewater is eliminated without environmental damage and water resources, Istanbul Strait, and the Marmara Sea are protected from the threat of wastewater.



İSKİ Tuzla Advanced Biological  
Wastewater Treatment Plant



## Preventing Water System Pollution

Istanbul Medeniyet University cleans the wastewater inside the campus areas using certain filtering systems before discharging it. For instance, 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. These filters are regularly cleaned and the oil waste collected are delivered to ISTAC Inc., an affiliation of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality that is in charge of waste management.

Also, IMU signed a technical specification for 'food production, distribution and service including materials with its catering service contractors. And according to this specification, our catering service 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 and the Environment Law Nr. 2872. The oil waste collected in our dishwashing sites are delivered to ISTAC Inc., an affiliation of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality that is in charge of waste management.

**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 Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Club organizes various events every July (Plastic Free July) to draw attention to the environmental problems and water pollution caused by **single-use plastic waste** and to encourage our students and staff to adopt habits that will reduce usage of single-use plastics.

Wastewater from campus use is collected by the **wastewater network** and dispatched to the treatment facilities of Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (İSKİ), which is in charge of treating wastewater using various systems from preliminary treatment to advanced biological treatment so that wastewater is eliminated without environmental damage and water resources, Istanbul Strait, and the Marmara Sea are protected from the threat of wastewater.

# OPERATIONS

## Promoting Conscious Water Usage on Campus

IMU carries out different awareness raising practices to promote responsible water use on campus.

For example, **posters on water efficiency and water conservation** are placed near wet areas to make people think about the amount of water they are about to use; IMU Sustainability Office shares informative content on protecting water resources and reducing water footprint through its social media accounts.



IMU Water Efficiency Information Poster Hung on the Walls

## Promoting Conscious Water Usage in the Wider Community

IMU believes that everybody can take an action in their lives to protect the environment and water resources. For that, different offices in our university such as the IMU Sustainability Office, and various student clubs such as IMU Sustainability Club (IMUSUS) prepare **posters and fact sheets** on important days that are related to water conservation announced by the UN and suggestions that help people to reduce their water consumption, use water efficiently and protect water resources. By sharing them on our social media networks, we reach many more people from our campus community.



Awareness Post on Reducing Water Footprint Published on IMU Sustainability Office Social Media Account



## Free Drinking Water Provided

Istanbul Medeniyet University has started developing projects to provide free water for everyone as a human right. We installed a water treatment system in our Ziraat Bank Library building to provide our campus community with free drinking water.

## Water-Consconscious Building Standarts

IMU implements solutions to reduce water use in all its buildings and chiefly in its newly constructed buildings. Censored hand washing taps in the washing basins, dual flushing toilets and water saving recessed toilets are among these solutions.

Also when it comes to cleaning, we try to minimize the water we use. To achieve that, we use buckets and water efficient cleaning machines instead of washing the whole area with water. And in our kitchens we use water efficient dishwashers instead of washing plates in hand.

In IMU we regularly control our water appliances in our university against water loss due to fractures, leakages etc. At the same time, our staff and students can report any kind of faults or leakages via an online platform called IMU Bridge. With this effort, we aim to minimise our water loss.

## Water-Consconscious Planting

IMU does not want to fill its campuses with vegetation that requires a lot of water. Instead we avoid interfering with the **natural vegetation** as much as possible. In our campuses we prefer natural vegetation over grass and use **plants that do not require a lot of water** such as clovers. Similarly, in landscape design, we take care to plant plants that are compatible with the climate of our campuses and do not consume a lot of water.

All the green spaces in our campus areas are **irrigated by sprinkler systems** in order to reduce water consumption for irrigation. Irrigation system is activated in the early morning and evening hours when evaporation is the lowest, thereby saving water.

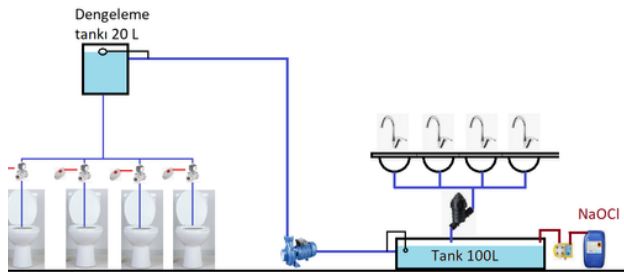
In addition, in areas where underground water usage is available, as in our Göztepe North and South Campuses, well water is also used as complementary to green space irrigation.



Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Green Areas

## Water Reuse Policy

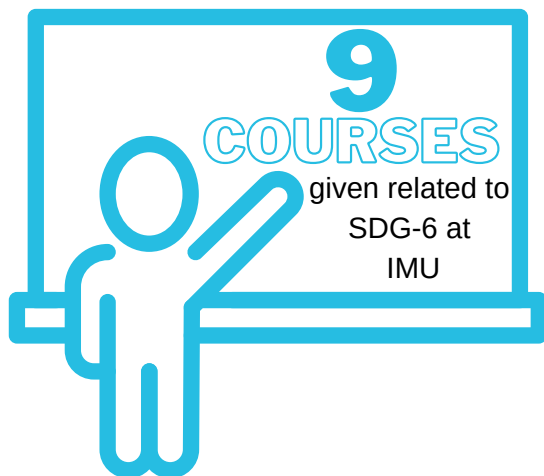
As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are developing projects for waters within our campus area that we can reuse after treatment. In 2021, the **"Greywater Recovery Project"** was initiated under the leadership of Prof.Dr. Erkan ŞAHİNKAYA and Asst.Prof.Dr. Yasin KARAGÖZ from IMU Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences. With this project, a system was designed that allows reusing the sink water in the restrooms for toilet flushing to reduce water consumption in our campuses. Designed system was implemented in the toilets in the North campus Block B Classroom Building in 2022.



IMU Greywater Recovery System

# 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, 9 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-6 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	INS058 - Water Resources Engineering
	INS461 - Water Supply and Environmental Health
	BYM416 - Micropollutants, Treatment and Effects on Human Health
Health Sciences	SYB313 - Public Health
Law	HUK342 - Environmental Law
Political Science	ULİ462 - Environmental Problems and the World
	ULİ466 - Water Problem in the International Arena
All- Elective	IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability



A workshop on renewable and clean energy production was organized by IMU Sustainability Office in cooperation with Sustainability Student Club on December 26, 2024, as part of the **"4th Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week"** activities. In the workshop conducted by our university Sustainability Office Research Assistant Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, **"ElectriCITY: Energy Preferences Game"**, a role game in which participants would produce energy policies as decision makers in the city's energy production, was played. Workshop aimed to inform local people about the importance of clean energy and water need for energy production. The workshop was open to the participation of all Istanbul Medeniyet University students, staff and the public.

At the beginning of the workshop, general information about the energy system and energy management used in cities was given. In this context, the participants were informed about primary energy sources such as fossil fuels, renewable energy sources and other energy sources. Finally, in order to understand why energy policies are important for the environment, information was given to the participants about air pollutants, greenhouse gases and water consumption resulting from source selection in energy production.

ÇELİKBİLEK informed that 51% of fresh earth water withdrawals are used for electricity. Thus, the participants were made to understand the importance of energy management in the global climate and water crisis. In the second part of the workshop, the game, which is a simple simulation of the energy system in cities, was introduced to the participants and the game started. The game, which was designed as a simulation of real life, was played as 6 different stages. And one of this stage is especially designed to provide a deep insight into the water consumption created by energy choices. Water consumption was kept at a certain limit in this stage and it was discussed how the changes in political, economic and environmental conditions reflected on the energy policies produced by the groups and how these policies were reflected on the environmental costs in addition to the construction and operating costs.



26 December 2024

"ElectriCITY: Energy Preferences Game"

# EVENTS

IMU Sustainability Office took part in the **Environment Festival** organized by Kadıköy Municipality annually as part of World Environment Day events and provided educational programmes about ecosystems. IMU Sustainability Office conducted environment training games and workshops for local participants in the festival. Through these games and workshops held from May 31 to June 02, 2024, the team members, Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, Lect. Zehra SAVAN, and Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR, discussed ways to develop sustainable practices in cities and improve waste management in order to create more sustainable cities and communities with the participants.

The sustainability team provided environmental education with their self-designed **TABUSUS** and Waste Sorting games, and conducted an upcycling art workshop for three days. During the game, participants were asked to describe the keywords on the cards containing sustainability-related concepts and then determine which Sustainable Development Goal this keyword was associated with. Thus, a brainstorm was held about concepts related to sustainability.

During the event, participants were informed about the concepts of water management such as safe drinking water, affordable drinking water, sanitation, water quality, water management, water footprint, wastewater, grey water, water ecosystem, water resources, water right, purified water, water scarcity, water stress, water harvesting.

TabuSUS was designed by IMU Sustainability Office research assistant Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK and developed together with the IMU Sustainability Office team, as a word game where participants learn and discuss, and also teach key concepts about sustainability while having fun.

The design of the game goes beyond a word-telling game, the game is also an environmental education. The words presented as banned words on the game cards are actually the words we use to teach these concepts to the participants. For this reason, some cards actually contain words or statistical information that people may never use when describing the keyword. The purpose of this setup of the game is that we want to convey some information to people about those goals within the game. We aimed to convey information through gamification by reflecting the issues that are important on the cards in this way.



"TabuSUS" Game Workshop

# EVENTS

Within the scope of the [2024 Plastic-Free July events](#), IMU Sustainability Club collaborated with Juveco Medicine and Dermocosmetics to move people away from plastic-packaged and non-recyclable disposable makeup cotton pads and makeup remover wipes and to popularize the use of sustainable alternatives, washable makeup pads. For this purpose, our students from the Sustainability Club and our Sustainability Office team visited the offices and social areas in Göztepe North Campus on July 25, 2024, provided information about the resource use, water consumption and environmental pollution caused by the consumption of disposable makeup cotton pads and makeup remover wipes, and presented reusable makeup pads to our campus community members. Thanks to this collaboration, a total of 145 campus communities stopped using disposable makeup cotton pads and received sustainable makeup pads free of charge.



Although cotton may seem more sustainable than synthetic products for makeup and skin cleansing, it takes about 3,100 liters of water to produce 100 makeup cottons. In addition, these cottons are sold in plastic packaging.

Wet wipes, preferred for their ease of use, are disposable, non-recyclable and come in plastic packaging. This makes them harmful to the environment and leads to large piles of waste. In addition, some wet wipes contain microplastics in their tissue. So, wet wipes can pose a threat to both your health and the environment.

With this social responsibility project carried out jointly by the IMU Sustainability Club and Juveco, 3.2 kilograms of plastic waste was also prevented from being generated and this waste from remaining in nature for 450 years.

