

MANİSA CELAL BAYAR UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. Introduction

Manisa Celal Bayar University (MCBU) approaches sustainability not merely as an environmental concept, but as an integrated framework encompassing education, research, societal contribution, and institutional governance.

This policy has been developed in line with national and international best practices and the mission and vision of our university.

MCBU advances with a long-term strategic framework grounded in environmental management, social inclusion, economic sustainability, and strong governance principles to strengthen a sustainable campus culture.

Through this policy, the University formally commits to the strategic goals and foundational principles that drive its sustainability initiatives.

2. Institutional Structure and Governance

Sustainability efforts at MCBU are carried out within an integrated structure under the Coordination Office for Sustainable Campuses. This structure is supported by committees and working groups in areas such as energy, water, waste, transportation, digital transformation, accessibility, societal contribution, and university-industry collaboration.

MCBU bases its decision-making processes on transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, and ethical principles. All boards, committees, and administrative structures operate in line with the vision of a sustainable university.

MCBU's governance approach is supported by planning, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms that strengthen institutional sustainability.

Sustainability activities are continuously improved through the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle.

This policy covers all academic and administrative units. The Coordination Office for Sustainable Campuses is responsible for coordination, while relevant units are responsible for implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

MCBU regularly monitors its sustainability performance through indicators for energy, water, waste management, transportation, carbon footprint, and accessibility, and presents this data transparently to stakeholders through annual sustainability reports.

The fundamental principles related to the SDGs are presented below.

SDG 1 - No Poverty

MCBU implements comprehensive social support policies to ensure the full and equal participation of economically disadvantaged students in education.

Free meal services are provided to eligible students to support food security. These services are planned by nutrition specialists and adjusted based on student needs.

Scholarship opportunities provided by the University Foundation enhance equal opportunities in education, with the scope of scholarships expanding each year.

Through the ISKUR (Turkish Employment Agency)-supported student employment program, students gain work experience and receive financial support by working in paid on-campus positions.

To meet the housing needs of financially disadvantaged students, MCBU provides guidance services and facilitates access to free accommodation opportunities.

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

The University cafeteria regularly prepares menus aligned with scientific nutrition criteria to promote students' healthy and balanced diets.

Seminars, awareness activities, and workshops are organized to increase nutrition literacy and foster conscious eating habits among students.

MCBU implements sustainable policies such as portion control, waste separation, and efficient kitchen practices to reduce food waste.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being

MCBU addresses the physical, mental, and social health of students holistically and offers extensive support services.

The University adopts a comprehensive approach to student well-being, emphasizing the transformative impact of sports on health. MCBU continuously improves its sports infrastructure to increase access to regular physical activity and recognizes sport as a critical component of both preventive health and social inclusion.

Swimming pools, sports halls, fitness areas, and various outdoor sports facilities on campus support students' healthy lifestyle habits.

The wide range of sports facilities, including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, modern sports halls, tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, a health-oriented sports center, and walking and running tracks enables students to develop a sustainable active-living culture. These facilities serve not only free use but also regular exercise programs, basic sports training, inter-university competitions, and recreational activities. Thus, MCBU encourages students to maintain an ongoing, sustainable relationship with physical activity.

The psychological counseling unit provides confidential professional support to students and offers guidance on exam stress, anxiety, adjustment issues, and related concerns.

To contribute to public health, activities such as addiction-awareness seminars, first-aid training, and healthy-living events are organized.

SDG 4 - Quality Education

MCBU has aligned all its academic programs with the Bologna Process in line with policies aimed at improving quality in higher education.

The University's sustainability policy incorporates not only environmental or economic criteria but also the sustainable development of human capital. Accordingly, all programs are designed in alignment with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), ensuring the transparency and international recognition of students' knowledge, skills, and competencies. This approach aims to secure global recognition for the qualifications of MCBU graduates and to guarantee a high standard of quality.

Course materials, online platforms, and digital library resources are continuously updated to support students' digital learning processes.

In line with the vision of a lifelong learning, MCBU offers extensive certificate programs, trainings, and community education activities. The University contributes to equal opportunity in education by providing scholarship programs for disadvantaged groups such as students with disabilities and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Academic events, scientific meetings, and project workshops are organized to strengthen students' research and project-development skills.

Within the Coordination Office for Sustainable Campuses, instructional videos on efficient energy and water use were prepared for all administrative and academic staff and made a mandatory in-service training component.

MCBU regularly conducts training programs, digital modules, and awareness activities on energy and water efficiency for all staff and students.

SDG 5 - Gender Equality

MCBU ensures that all students and staff have the right to study and work in an environment free from gender-based discrimination.

Panels, seminars, and trainings are organized to increase gender-equality awareness and strengthen a culture of equality on campus.

MCBU implements safety policies for female students and staff, with active mechanisms to address harassment and mobbing.

The MCBU Gender Equality Policy has been prepared, and the institutionalization of gender equality efforts has been secured through a Senate decision.

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

MCBU structures its water-management policies around conservation, sustainability, reuse, and efficiency. Water consumption on campuses is regularly monitored.

Xeriscape landscaping practices and drip-irrigation systems support sustainable water use in green areas.

National and international water-focused projects create awareness for students and society and support sustainable water management.

SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

MCBU has expanded its energy-efficiency projects by implementing LED conversions, automation systems, and energy-saving campaigns.

The University aims to reduce its carbon footprint through investments that increase the use of clean energy.

Energy management is regularly monitored and reported campus-wide.

Up to 25% of total electricity demand is met from renewable sources. The University aims to increase this share further in the coming years. Motion-sensor lighting, inverter air-conditioning units, and central automation systems are used campus-wide, achieving an average energy-efficient device rate of 80%.

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

The 7+1 and 3+1 workplace-based education models are successfully implemented to enhance students' industry experience.

In optional internship programs, student insurance costs are covered by the University, supporting equal-opportunity principles.

MCBU promotes entrepreneurial culture by supporting students in project development, mentorship, and innovation.

Laboratories established through collaborations with energy-sector stakeholders contribute to training qualified professionals for the industry.

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The University continuously invests in improving its research infrastructure; laboratories, application centers, and technology-development areas create a strong R&D ecosystem.

MCBU produces a significant number of intellectual-property outputs each year and supports the development of innovative projects.

Industry collaborations enhance students' alignment with the sector and strengthen the University's contribution to regional development.

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

MCBU ensures full participation of students with disabilities by completing accessibility arrangements across all campuses.

Orientation programs, Turkish-language support courses, and advisory services are offered for international students.

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

MCBU maintains strong interaction with the city through public cultural events, scientific meetings, and social-responsibility projects.

Campus transportation, green-space management, and security systems are structured according to sustainable-urbanization principles.

All educational buildings of the University have been reinforced to be earthquake-resistant, and campus-wide disaster-awareness programs are conducted.

Fully electric buses, free staff shuttles, and bicycle paths are used for campus transportation.

SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

MCBU adopts circular-economy principles by preventing waste generation, separating hazardous waste at the source, ensuring safe waste management, enhancing resource efficiency, promoting sustainable procurement and consumption habits, and committing to making responsible production and consumption an integral part of campus life.

In line with the Zero Waste Campus vision, waste-separation, resource-reduction, and awareness campaigns are conducted.

The University implements social-awareness projects that promote conservation-oriented consumption habits.

MCBU pledges to systematically enforce waste-separation across campus, progressively raise recycling rates, and implement awareness initiatives designed to reduce overall resource use.

SDG 13 - Climate Action

MCBU conducts climate-action initiatives through energy efficiency, carbon-reduction strategies, and afforestation programs within a holistic framework.

Climate-awareness training is organized for students and society, supporting a sustainable-living culture.

SDG 14 - Life Below Water

MCBU organizes awareness-raising activities to protect aquatic ecosystems and offers environmental-responsibility projects for students and the community.

Scientific studies and environmental-education programs support the sustainable use of water resources.

SDG 15 - Life on Land

The University conducts ecological landscaping practices, biodiversity-protection efforts, and afforestation activities across its campuses.

Nature-based student projects and volunteer activities help raise environmental awareness.

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

MCBU adopts a transparent governance approach based on institutional ethical principles.

Ethics boards, quality commissions, and participatory decision-making mechanisms strengthen institutional integrity.

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

The University carries out sustainability-focused collaborations with public institutions, universities, civil-society organizations, and the private sector at national and international levels.

These partnerships generate impactful sustainability outcomes across a wide range of activities, from student mobility to research projects.

**Originally drafted in 2024 and revised in 2025.*