



2023-2024

AFYON KOCATEPE UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT





1. Introduction

Afyon Kocatepe University, established on July 3, 1992, started its educational activities on November 10, 1992, in Afyonkarahisar, located in Turkey. However, the University's history dates back to 1974, when the Afyonkarahisar School of Finance and Accounting was opened, established under the Eskişehir Academy of Economics and Commercial Sciences. Since then, the University has produced more than 150,000 graduates.

Knowing that a modern university will be formed through social activities and a good education, our university leads many activities in this direction. Seminars, symposiums, conferences, panels, and workshops are organized on various subjects during the academic year.

Our university supports Social, cultural, and sports activities created by our students' clubs. Traditionally, our university's science, culture, art, and sports festivals are held annually in May. There is great enthusiasm at the fairs, sports tournaments, and shows held as part of the festivities.

Our university, where it is aimed to raise versatile individuals, so cultural and artistic activities are also emphasized. Atatürk Congress Center, Rıza Çerçel Cultural Center, and the halls in our academic units are used for such events. Our halls have the capacity and equipment to respond to our students and lecturers' cultural and artistic activities. Our students can also watch the movies shown in the movie theaters in Afyonkarahisar.

All our campuses also have sports facilities that allow our students to do sports, and our young athletes can do sports on the teams. Our students can play football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, badminton, athletics, rhythmic gymnastics, step, mountaineering, boxing, wrestling, taekwondo, and karate also can participate in tournaments between the teams.



SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Our university is an educational institution that directs the developments in science with its academic studies in every field. The campuses' buildings and areas have been shaped to protect the environmentally sensitive ecological balance. In the 2019 GreenMetric Survey, after 21 days, our current values and achievements are 305 among 780 universities in the world ranking. It was 13th among 43 Turkish Universities and 4th among the Universities that made its first application.



Structure and Infrastructure

Our university has a comprehensive structure that includes programs in many academic fields. Afyonkarahisar, the province where it is located, has a semi-arid climate. The total number of campuses is 15. Ahmet Necdet Sezer Campus, the Main Campus, is located in an urban settlement 10 km from the city center (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Ahmet Necdet Sezer Campus, which is the Main Campus

The total area of the campuses is 5984104 m². The total area of the buildings belonging to our university is 350664 m², and the area covered by the buildings is 151240 m². Open areas are more than 95% of the total area. There is no forest area belonging to our university. The area covered with planted vegetation is 8% of the total area. The rate of water-absorbing areas is 92%.



The number of students in our university is 31072. In the spring semester of the 2023-2024 academic year, the population of our university is 33117. The ratio of open spaces to the total population of 70 m².

The total budget of our university for the 2023-2024 academic year, is 27765627,24 USD. Its budget in the field of sustainability is 1069190,88 USD. It shows us that our university's expenditures in the field of sustainability are at the rate of 3%.

In sustainability, our university is at a medium level due to its structure and infrastructure. The fact that we do not have forest cover is one factor affecting this situation. Our work will enable us to improve this in the future.

Energy and Climate Change

The energy-saving refrigerators, dishwashers, air conditioners, computers, and monitors (LCD, LED) are used in Afyon Kocatepe University campuses. Light sensing and LED lighting with a timer are used for outdoor lighting. The percentage of LED lighting used indoors is 45.80%, as seen in the following pictures.





Renewable Energy sources include Solar Energy Panels and Geothermal Energy used for heating in our university.

Annual Electricity Usage in Our University is 4.947.513,431 kWh. Renewable Energy Use is at a reasonable level.



Building Energy Managers have been appointed for Afyon Kocatepe Campuses.



Some application examples of the Green Building in Afyon Kocatepe University Ahmet Necdet Sezer Campus can be seen from the below pictures.



Building of the Institutes



Main Library Building

Carbon Footprint (CO₂) in 2022-2023 is 4439,951282 metric tons. It is recorded as 0,14 metric tons of Carbon per person.

Waste Management

Wastes are divided into organic wastes and inorganic wastes in our university. Organic waste is partially recycled, usually collected and disposed of by local municipalities. Organic wastes of our university are taken by Afyonkarahisar Municipality and sent to the waste center within its body.



Inorganic wastes are glass, paper, plastic, and medical waste that can be recycled. Afyonkarahisar Municipality collects such wastes from contractor companies in our university.

The Recycling Program at our university works close to 100% capacity. The responsible personnel collect the wastes in the units in our waste center established in 2019 and delivers them to the contractor company after the separation processes.



Inorganic waste collection points in the units



Our University Waste Collection Center

In order to reduce the use of paper and plastic cups in our university, printer and photocopy functions are used by all the staff in the units.



The "Electronic Document Management System" has been used for the official correspondences of the university since 2014, and a large amount of paper waste has been prevented.



Our university's organic wastes are collected by Afyonkarahisar Municipality and taken to the waste center belonged to the Municipality.



These wastes are disposed of by purifying them from recyclable materials. Recyclable materials are recovered by processing.





Toxic wastes, also known as hazardous wastes, are collected in a controlled manner within our university and transmitted to the necessary places for disposal and recycling through our waste center.



Our university's wastewater is at an excellent level in terms of disposal and infrastructure strengthening. Wastewater is a form of rainwater after used and water after personal use. Rainwater and polluted water are mixed with sewage water through separate channels, thus preventing negative consequences.



Water

In the field of sustainability of our university, our project studies on water use and saving continue. Water dispensers are used by all the staff in the units.





Transportation

The daily number of private or public cars entering the university is 600. The number of motorcycles entering daily is 25. The ratio of the total number of vehicles to the campus population is approximately % 1,2. The services that carry our university's academic and administrative staff are regularly provided by the university and free of charge.



Two-ring services carry our university students and staff within the Ahmet Necdet Sezer Campus and provide free service. Each ring vehicle carries 44 passengers at once. An average of 8 expeditions are organized per day with these ring vehicles.



Our students and staff use 696 bicycles given by the Ministry of Health for our Zero Emission vehicles to serve on campus.



Rechargeable vehicles and electric bicycles, used in the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department Security Unit and the Construction and Technical Department services and included in our university with a grant, are examples of our zero-emission vehicles. There are also charging units for these vehicles.



Our total parking area is 89500 m². This shows us that the ratio of the parks to the total area is 1,41 m².

The parking area has been reduced by 30% in the last three years. Two stops belonging to AfRay are located in our University Ahmet Necdet Sezer Campus, as the project of Afyonkarahisar Municipality to reduce motor vehicles on campus. Personnel is transported to the campus by shuttle service. Bicycles and rechargeable vehicles belonging to the Ministry of Health have significantly reduced the use of motor vehicles. Bicycle lanes are also one of the initiatives to reduce the use of motor vehicles.

Walking paths have been built in our university for pedestrians to walk comfortably and safely. Our university became the first in Turkey in 2021 in the Higher Education Board Presidency Barrier-Free University awards for the initiatives reserved for disabled students and staff.



There are ten student clubs and societies operating in the field of Sustainability at our university.



1. Mountaining and Nature Conservation Society
2. Geographical Society
3. Social Service Club
4. Disabled Kocatepe Community
5. Combating Erosion and Soil Cover Conservation Society
6. The Scout Society
7. Kocatepe Bicycle Society
8. Wild Life Conservation And Rescue Society
9. Natural Disasters and Socially Responsible Student Club
10. Electricity Saving Club
11. Orienteering Club
12. Community Service Club

Our university website address has the link of sustainability page is given below and is accessible. It is constantly updated with each development.

<https://greenmetric.aku.edu.tr/>.



ENVIROMENT

Our University's Environmental Management Commission has been working on what can be done in the scientific field regarding the increasing environmental awareness in recent years. It also includes the GreenMetric unit with its expert staff.

ECOLOGY The distance between wild animals and humans has shortened, and wildlife has been exposed to many human-induced threats because of the increase in population, urbanization, industrialization, and technological developments.

Some species have disappeared in wildlife, and some species have faced the danger of extinction, mainly due to unconscious hunting, use of chemicals in agriculture, conversion of wildlife habitats to agricultural land or settlements, unconscious consumption of water resources, etc.

For this reason, developed societies are aware of the importance and necessity of wildlife and follow various policies to protect their biodiversity.

One of the measures taken to protect wildlife is the establishment of "Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centers." These centers give a second chance to wild animals harmed in nature. Afyon Kocatepe University Wildlife Rescue Rehabilitation Training Application and Research Center (AKUREM), which was established due to the initiatives of the AKU Veterinary Faculty Wildlife and Ecology Department, started its activities with the regulation published in the Official Gazette on 14 August 2016.

